

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF MADAME CHIANG
KAI-SHEK

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the recent passing of the former First Lady of China and Taiwan, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, also known to history as Soong Mei-ling. Madame Chiang was a steadfast ally of the United States and an old friend of the Congress.

Madame Chiang came from an illustrious family whose members played prominent roles in the history of 20th century China. One of her sisters married Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China, while Madame Chiang herself wed a rising young military officer named Chiang Kai-shek.

She was one of the last living links to our alliance with China during World War II, in which she played a central role as adviser to her husband, President Chiang Kai-shek. Her death at age 106 represents the passing of an era.

Madame Chiang's ties to the United States were strong and long-standing. She was educated at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia and at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, where she graduated with honors in 1917, attending college at a time when most American women, not to mention Chinese women, had little opportunity to pursue higher education.

Her bicultural and bilingual skills allowed Madame Chiang to serve as a cultural bridge between East and West. She entered the American consciousness in the dark days of 1943 when the Chinese government, fighting for its life against the Japanese invaders, sent her on a goodwill mission to the United States. Madame Chiang crisscrossed the nation, and in eloquent speeches delivered in flawless English, she won the hearts of millions of Americans and graced the cover of Time Magazine. Her efforts culminated here on Capitol Hill where she became the first Asian woman to address a joint session of the Congress. Her appearance was instrumental in securing billions of dollars in military aid by the United States to China, thereby enabling a free Chinese government to survive and continue to fight. Madame Chiang returned to Capitol Hill a half century later when, in 1995, she was invited to assist with commemorative events marking the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that, in addition to her death being mourned here and in Taiwan, even Madame Chiang's former opponents in Beijing offered kind words for her upon her passing. The Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference offered "deep condolences" to the family of Madame Chiang. The Chairman paid tribute to her by noting that she had "been dedicated to the Chinese people's war of resistance" during World War II. The People's Daily noted that

"she walked with China through turbulent times."

Today, we remember Madame Chiang fondly as an old friend who devoted herself to understanding, friendship, and cooperation between the peoples of the United States and China. She leaves a lasting legacy, and we are greatly indebted to her for her life's work.

HONORING ARMANDO OLIVERA
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CON-
TRIBUTION TO THE SOUTH FLOR-
IDA COMMUNITY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Armando Olivera for his outstanding contribution to our South Florida community. Armando has been selected to serve as president of Florida Power & Light Company which, with annual revenues of over \$8 billion, is widely recognized as one of the country's premier power companies.

During his 32-year tenure with FPL, Armando has demonstrated a proven track record of excellent organizational ability, as well as a profound commitment to our community.

On November 5, 2003, Armando will be honored by the Miami Dade College Foundation and Dr. Eduardo J. Padron, President of Miami Dade College, for his continuing achievements.

As we conclude the celebrations of Hispanic Heritage Month, and reflect upon the contributions of countless Hispanics across the Nation, it is important to recognize people like Armando. His resilience and hard work have enabled him to become not only a successful businessman, but also a proud member of the community who gives hope to fellow Cuban political refugees.

HOMILY OF CARDINAL AVERY
DULLES AT THE 50th ANNUAL
RED MASS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the remarks given by Cardinal Avery Dulles during his homily for the 50th Annual Red Mass at St. Matthews Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The Red Mass—named for the red vestments worn by the celebrants and the color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit—is celebrated annually in Washington the Sunday before the new U.S. Supreme Court session begins. This liturgy invokes guidance and wisdom on judges, attorneys, government offi-

cial and Supreme Court justices in their administration of justice. The Red Mass is sponsored by the John Carroll Society, a Washington area organization of lay professionals. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Red Mass.

Cardinal Dulles is an internationally-recognized theologian and is one of the leading thinkers of the American Catholic Church. He was born in New York in 1918 to John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State under President Dwight Eisenhower, and Janet Pomeroy Avery Dulles, and was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1956. Cardinal Dulles has written over 700 articles and 22 books on Catholic theology and has served on the faculty of Woodstock College and the Catholic University of America. Currently, he is the Laurence J. McGinley Professor of Religion and Society at Fordham University. He was elevated to the College of Cardinals in February 2001.

During his homily, Cardinal Dulles spoke on the subject of law and spirit. He said that law and spirit are "inextricably conjoined" and that laws are unsustainable without a moral and spiritual foundation. He also talked about our overly litigious society and the dangers of an obsessive legalism in the absence of virtue and grace. To sustain law and to enhance the relationship between spirit and law, Cardinal Dulles emphasized families, schools and churches as the primary agents for transmitting moral values and principles. He stated that "the family, as the nucleus where life is born and where coming generations are formed, is today under severe pressure", and that it needs to be protected.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the remarks of Cardinal Dulles for the RECORD:

LAW AND SPIRIT 50TH ANNUAL RED MASS,
AVERY CARDINAL DULLES, S.J., CATHEDRAL
OF ST. MATTHEW, WASHINGTON, DC, OCTO-
BER 5, 2003

(Readings: Jer 31:31-34; 2 Cor 3:1-6; Jn 14:15-17)

All three of the readings for this Mass deal with the same two themes: law and spirit. Ezekiel prophesies a time when the law will be inscribed by the Spirit on the hearts of the people. Paul says that the Christians of Corinth have in their hearts a law written by the Spirit of the living God. And in the Gospel reading from John, Jesus speaks of the indwelling Spirit who will prompt his disciples to keep his commandments.

Many of you who are present for this Mass are in one way or another connected with the law, whether as legislators, as advocates, as administrators, or as judges. You therefore have to face the question, how is the law related to things of the spirit? In biblical history the two are neither separable nor antithetical but are inextricably conjoined. The Spirit of God inspires those who make the laws and gives the people the capacity to observe those same laws. Is the same true, at least analogously, for civil society? Do the making of laws, their interpretation, and their observance require spiritual qualifications?

The French political philosopher Montesquieu, in a work that profoundly influenced the framers of the United States

• 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.

Constitution, held that each major form of polity is animated by a distinct spirit, which he called, in the title of his classic work, "The Spirit of the Laws." In a monarchy, he said, the dominant spirit is honor; in a despotism, it is fear, and in a republic the spirit must be virtue.

The founding fathers of our nation agreed. Our first three presidents, Washington, Jefferson, and John Adams, spoke eloquently of the necessity for civic virtue to undergird the health of our republic. Our fourth president, James Madison, wrote to the same effect: "To suppose any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."

Civic virtue, of course, is not a substitute for law. In a complex society such as ours, many laws are needed to coordinate social relationships. We justly pride ourselves in having a government of laws that prevents tyranny and capriciousness. But it is possible, in the absence of virtue, to put too much stock on law. Alexis de Tocqueville, a keen observer of the American scene, said that the Europeans of his day gave too much emphasis to laws and too little to mores. In the United States, he contended, customs and religious beliefs pervaded social life so thoroughly that the laws could be less onerous.

Where virtue prevails, laws will be framed with a view to the common good, not private self-interest. The laws, perceived as agreeing with the norms of justice, will carry moral authority. A virtuous people will feel obliged in conscience to obey them. But if laws are framed to satisfy the interests of particular groups, they will lose their moral authority, and the citizens will feel entitled to disobey, provided they do not get caught. Vice and criminality will proliferate.

Civilization depends on habits of the heart. It requires citizens who can trust one another to be honest, considerate, and truthful. When trust evaporates, the law has to assume a coercive function, compelling people to obey against their will. Elaborate mechanisms of surveillance, prosecution, and punishment must be erected. An army of auditors, detectives, police, attorneys, trial judges, and prison guards strives in vain to secure the order that responsible freedom would achieve. Free society gradually transforms itself into a police state.

In our litigious society, thirst for gain almost eclipses the passion for justice. Friends and family members readily take each other to court. Malpractice suits and the cost of insurance are forcing doctors and other professionals to abandon their practice. The courts are congested with heavy backlogs. We build more and larger prisons, which prove only to be schools of crime.

As men and women of the law, you know well that virtue cannot be legislated. But your concern for the law itself must give you a sense of the importance of moral convictions and moral training for the health of our society.

In our American tradition, great reliance has been placed on private institutions that directly inculcate virtue. Families, schools, and churches are among the primary agents for transmitting sound moral values.

The family, as the nucleus where life is born and where coming generations are formed, is today under severe pressure. It needs to be protected so that children can be raised in a stable and healthy environment. Broken homes and dysfunctional families are breeding-grounds of crime.

Schools extend the pedagogical functions of the family. To the degree that public education fails to instill moral convictions and behavior, this task will fall more heavily on private institutions, especially those conducted under religious auspices. Schools of

this character fill the void left by value-free institutions that limit themselves to factual information and technical skills.

Religious institutions are of inestimable importance for transmitting moral probity. Perceiving this, John Adams declared: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." George Washington said much the same: "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail to the exclusion of religious principle." The government cannot establish in this country any given religion, but it can protect and support religion as an aid to civic virtue.

Law and spirit belong together. They are as inseparable as body and soul. Law, at least civil law, is a human achievement, but the spirit, if it is to be upright, depends chiefly upon the grace of God, who can transform our hearts and fill them with his love. May God forgive us for having so often tried to do without him! In prayer and worship we beseech him to impart a generous measure of his Spirit on our nation, its governors, and those who frame, interpret, and apply its laws.

HONORING REVEREND ROGER
TOBIN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Roger Tobin of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, in my Congressional District, on the 25th Anniversary of his ordination.

Reverend Tobin is an outstanding member of the South Florida community who enlightens and inspires all who are blessed to know him. Through his dynamic leadership during the last 17 years at St. Thomas, Reverend Tobin has seen both the church and the school double in size, a true testament to his unwavering dedication to his church community. Not only is Reverend Tobin striving to improve the physical plant at St. Thomas through a major reconstruction project, but he is also striving to deepen his own intellectual and spiritual life through a personal retreat.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Tobin on 25 years of tireless service to the Episcopal Church. Thank you Reverend, and may God continue to bless you, your lovely wife, Janice, and your sons, Jonathan and Nathaniel as you continue your mission.

H.R. 3407 AND SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies go out to the Californians who are suffering in the devastating wake of the fires currently raging in the Southern part of my home state. I want to be clear: I unequivocally support the federal disaster assistance that California and Californians will require to rebuild in the aftermath of the tragic fires. That is why I

am an original cosponsor of H.R. 3407, the California Funding for Immediate Relief of Wildfire Emergencies Act, which provides an emergency appropriation to FEMA of \$500 million for disaster relief associated with the fires.

What I am opposed to, however, is the shameful, politically motivated decision to include the \$500 million in FEMA funding in a bill that deals with the most serious question of war. Mr. Speaker, I cannot, and will not vote for almost \$87 billion to fund the Bush Administration's continuing war in Iraq, and just as I voted against the original Supplemental Appropriations bill, I will vote against this conference report.

HONORING ROCHESTER GENERAL
HOSPITAL

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to the Rochester General Hospital located in Rochester, New York, a 526-bed Center of Excellence within the boundaries of the 28th Congressional District of New York. The hospital, which is home to the Rochester Heart Institute, is New York's fourth largest cardiac center, providing complete diagnostic services, medical, invasive, and non-invasive treatment, three progressive levels of cardiac rehabilitation and state-of-the-art cardiothoracic surgery.

This year, the century-old teaching hospital has been named a 2003 Solucient 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospital. Although the hospital has received this designation three previous times, the 2003 distinction is especially meaningful, as it is one of only two hospitals in New York State so distinguished.

The fifth annual study, Solucient 100 Top Hospitals Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success—2003, used publicly available data, statistically adjusted for illness levels, to track performance in seven key cardiology/cardiac surgery areas. Specifically, hospitals that cared for at least 20 cases in each of the four categories of acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), congestive heart failure, angioplasty (PTCA) and coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG) were rated by the seven following indicators: procedure volume, risk-adjusted medical mortality, risk-adjusted surgical mortality, risk-adjusted complications index, percentage of CABG patients with internal mammary artery use, severity-adjusted average length of stay, and wage and severity-adjusted average cost.

Rochester General Hospital's designation as one of America's Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospitals is particularly important to health care consumers. The aforementioned study concluded that facilities found worthy of this distinction consistently outperform their peers, especially in terms of mortality and complication rates. This specific achievement is evidence that the skilled performance and excellent outcomes in cardiovascular services at Rochester General Hospital of Rochester, New York have propelled the hospital to the top one per cent of acute-care hospitals in the United States of America.

It is indeed my great privilege, as the elected Representative of the 28th Congressional

District of New York, to formally honor Rochester General Hospital of Rochester, New York, for having achieved excellence in the area of heart care, as an integrated source for patient cardiovascular needs, from prevention and education to diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOUSTON
AREA NETWORK ONLINE COMMUNITY
(HAN-NET)

HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor The Houston Area Network Online Community (HAN-NET), a forum for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender activists and others committed to the cause of equality and civil rights for all. HAN-NET has been in operation since November 1998 and is ceasing operations on November 1, 2003.

Throughout its existence and operation, HAN-NET has informed, challenged and inspired the Houston GLBT community and has been extremely successful in accomplishing its mission to simplify and accelerate communication within the Houston GLBT community.

HAN-NET, a Yahoo groups "listserv," has enhanced GLBT community communication through its online announcements, news, and dialogue. HAN-NET has made pertinent information immediately accessible to its members. Information reached members directly and was packaged for quick redistribution.

The HAN-NET online community participated in several collaborative efforts including establishing community priorities and activist goals for the Houston GLBT community. I strongly support these goals which include: focusing on local and state political issues impacting the GLBT community; finding a new home and permanent funding for the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center; finding permanent funding for the operation and growth of the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum; building a strong corporate network group; supporting HIV education and prevention; and establishing an educational outreach program for the transgender community.

It is my sincere hope that the success of HAN-NET will inspire other community leaders to continue and grow the mission of its founders.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating HAN-NET moderator Brandon J. Wolf and the HAN-NET online community for a job well done for Houston's GLBT community. Mr. Wolf's commitment to improved communication and outreach for the past five years has been inspiring and extremely worthwhile. I wish him great success in his continued work for the GLBT community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on Octo-

ber 29, 2003. I would like the record to show that had I been present in this Chamber, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 574 and 575. I also would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 576, 577, 578 and 579.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1720, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act, a two-year authorization bill that will authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out major medical facility construction projects to improve, renovate, replace, update or establish patient care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition to authorizing \$168 million for fiscal year 2004 and \$600 million for fiscal year 2005 for construction of undesignated major projects, H.R. 1720 also authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project at the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center site in Aurora, Colorado. H.R. 1720 would authorize this project to be carried out using a total appropriation of \$300 million.

Mr. Speaker, since the end of World War II, the Veterans Medical Center in Denver and the University of Colorado hospitals have shared expensive and specialized medical equipment and facilities, such as surgical suites and imaging equipment. This partnership has also included the sharing of expensive specialty diagnostics and medical treatments.

Due to the lack of space, inability to renovate or construct newer facilities and the cost associated with continuing to use the site, the University of Colorado Hospital moved its campus in 1995 to the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center. This site is four and one half times the size of the existing campus and provides the school with a new medical complex for the 21st century.

As the University completes its move to Fitzsimons, a state of the art medical campus will be developed and many of the very best services in the United States will be available. For example, the Anschutz Cancer Pavilion, which is already open, is among the best institutions in the nation for all types of cancer treatment and research. In addition, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center is well known throughout the country for its organ transplant programs.

While the move to the Fitzsimons site solved existing problems and provided future advantages for the University of Colorado Hospital, it unfortunately separated the Denver Veterans Medical Center from both the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the University of Colorado Hospital by eight miles. While the University of Colorado Hospital and the Veterans Medical Center continue to share medical resources, this eight mile separation creates a very real and significant barrier to quality care for veterans who receive their care at the Denver Veterans Medical Center.

Compounding this problem, a recent study commissioned by the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 19 indicated that high demand for medical services by veterans at the Denver Veterans Medical Center will continue unabated for the next 20 years. The cost of maintaining the current Denver Veterans Medical Center to satisfy minimal accreditation levels until 2020 has been estimated to be \$233 million, and estimates to rebuild the facility in 2020 are \$377 million in today's dollars.

Planning studies have shown that a move of the Denver Veterans Medical Center to the Fitzsimons campus is the most cost effective of the reasonably acceptable alternatives. Passage of H.R. 1720 will allow the Denver Veterans Medical Center to relocate to the Fitzsimons site and enjoy many of the same opportunities as the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center enjoys now. This will include, but is not limited to, solving aging facilities issues, capping new facilities cost, enhancing quality of medical care, increasing flexibility and reducing operational costs.

Veterans who have highly specialized medical needs must have easy access to the best diagnostic and treatment programs that America provides. In a medical school environment doctors tend to be better informed of the latest treatment procedures and protocols. They are closer to the "cutting edge" of modern medicine. Quality of medical care for veterans is enhanced in a medical school teaching hospital.

University physicians in specialty residency programs provide a significant amount of care in the Denver Veterans Medical Center. To date some 90 percent of the physicians that work at the VA Medical Center also work at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and most VA doctors have faculty appointments in the Medical School. Co-locating the University of Colorado Hospital with the Denver Veterans Medical Center will allow University doctors to continue their close relationship in treating veterans. Not allowing the Denver Veterans Medical Center to move to the Fitzsimons campus is simply unacceptable and it would not be in the best interest of high quality patient care veterans deserve to abandon this partnership of over fifty years.

The new VA Medical Center at Fitzsimons site will be veteran-friendly and will provide a practicable alternative to the Denver Veterans Medical Center remaining at its current, outdated facility. The new Veterans Medical Center at Fitzsimons will be a free-standing ambulatory and inpatient care federal tower building for veterans, clearly identified as the Veterans Administration Medical Center with its own nearby parking. New veterans research facilities will be constructed and there will be a new veterans long-term care unit located next to the new 180-bed State veterans nursing home currently being constructed at the site.

This project has another group of potential beneficiaries, as well. The Department of Defense will likely construct a military treatment facility to meet the needs of Buckley Air Force Base. One attractive solution will be to meet the Buckley Air Force Base's military treatment facility requirements by participating in joint construction of a joint Denver Veterans Medical Center and a Department of Defense facility at Fitzsimons. The Air Force, as well as the Department of Defense, find this partnership to be in its long term interest. For this reason, the House-passed Fiscal Year 2004

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) included \$4 million for the Department of Defense's portion of the design and planning phase of its military treatment facility.

Additionally, recognizing the importance of cost savings and other efficiencies, the FY04 NDAA included report language directing that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs make every effort to share health care facilities. I have included this report language below:

TITLE XXIV: DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENSE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE SHARING

The committee continues to believe that significant efficiencies are possible if the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) share health care facilities. However, the Department and VA operate only 7 joint ventures, even though the 2 departments operate approximately 240 hospitals. Such incremental progress is representative of the significant bureaucratic challenges facing the health care sharing effort. Nevertheless, the committee believes that the Department and VA should take advantage of health care sharing opportunities whenever possible.

The committee understands that the Colorado University School of Medicine has begun relocation to the site of the closed Fitzsimons Army Hospital. The Department of Veterans Affairs is currently considering replacement of the Denver VA Medical Center, a 50-year-old structure now co-located with the Colorado medical school, as a part of that relocation. The committee understands that the Department is also considering participation in the VA Medical Center's new facility. As such, the committee believes that the Department of Defense should participate in design and construction of this facility, which would provide ambulatory and acute care medical services to military personnel attached to Buckley Air Force Base. Such an approach would allow the Department to leverage construction, operations, and maintenance costs of a joint facility with VA, and eliminate the Department's need to construct an additional medical treatment facility at Buckley Air Force Base. In this particular case, a joint facility would further benefit by sharing significant assets with the Colorado University School of Medicine Facility, resulting in further savings.

With the expectation that the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs will reach an agreement on sharing design and construction costs at levels representative of their medical requirements, the committee recommends authorization of \$4,000,000 for planning and design of a DOD-VA medical treatment facility at the site of the closed Fitzsimons Army Hospital.

The funds included in the House-passed FY04 NDAA are a critical step toward ensuring that the VA and the DOD leverage their resources through joint projects that meet both of their requirements. Constructing a VA-DOD facility at Fitzsimons will serve as a model for future efforts to serve the medical needs of America's service members and veterans alike. And, I would like to point out that inpatient care for the veterans and the DOD will be located in the same federal tower as the veterans ambulatory care, but will be connected to the University of Colorado Hospital to share expensive facilities such as operating rooms and medical imaging.

Mr. Speaker, given the rising demand for veterans' health care, and the significant challenges of an aging and increasingly less-effi-

cient Denver Veterans Medical Center facility, my interest and my efforts are aimed at continuing the collaboration between the Denver Veterans Medical Center, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and University of Colorado Hospital. I believe that the opportunity to locate the Denver Veterans Medical Center with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the University of Colorado Hospital at the Fitzsimons campus will meet the demand for veteran care in the VISN 19 area through 2020 and beyond; provide significant savings in both capital and operational costs for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the taxpayer; continue to meet the Denver Veterans Medical Center commitment to education and research; and potentially create a national model for the future of veterans' care dealing with both a new concept for facilities and collaboration with long-established partners. More importantly, this move will retain veteran "identity" while also providing optimum patient care:

To date, over 45 local, state and national Veterans' Service Organizations and the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2241, have expressed their support for this proposal. We stand committed in the goal of providing the utmost modern, comprehensive and cost-efficient medical care that we as a nation owe our veterans. And I believe that co-locating the Denver Veterans' Medical Center with the University of Colorado Hospital will achieve these goals.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a duty to provide the best medical care it can to our nation's veterans and we must always strive for the very best health care services it can by utilizing the most cost-effective measures available. The fact is, aging facilities, lack of funds, and the growing demands on the veterans health system are proving to be daunting obstacles in meeting Congress' responsibilities to our nation's veterans. However, the possibility for the Denver Veterans Medical Center to move to Fitzsimons and co-locate with University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and University of Colorado Hospital is a unique opportunity to provide solid and constructive solutions to these challenges.

WISCONSIN CITIZEN ACTION 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wisconsin Citizen Action's 20th Anniversary as the state's leading public interest organization. I am honored to share with you today the accomplishments of this powerful Wisconsin organization.

I applaud Wisconsin Citizen Action's twenty year commitment to political activism for progressive change that benefits all of us in Wisconsin. They have helped pass twenty laws, trained and developed hundreds of citizen leaders, and organized tens of thousands of residents to work for social, economic and environmental justice. Just a few of their recent victories include SeniorCare, a vitally important program to provide seniors with prescription drug coverage, a mining moratorium pro-

tecting Wisconsin's precious northwoods against unsafe mining, a tough ordinance for lead poisoning prevention in Milwaukee, and they also obtained a five-fold increase in the funding for the SAGE program, which reduces classroom size for our Wisconsin school children.

As a former Wisconsin Citizen Action board member, I had the privilege of seeing firsthand the truly remarkable impact Wisconsin Citizen Action has had on our great state. Wisconsin Citizen Action has given Wisconsin residents the power to improve their communities. It is through people working together and sharing ideas that social change is achieved, and as these recent accomplishments demonstrate, Wisconsin Citizen Action does just this. I commend this group for their insight and their tireless action in joining the political power of a few with the voices and ideas of many.

Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Wisconsinites in congratulating Wisconsin Citizen Action on their 20th Anniversary and for their many great achievements. I wish them continued success for another 20 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING AUBREY DALE BELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Sgt. Aubrey Dale Bell, 33, of Tuskegee, Alabama, did this past Monday in Baghdad. Sgt. Bell was a member of the 214th Military Police Company based in Alexander City, Alabama, and was killed in an attack on the Iraqi police station he was helping guard.

Aubrey Bell was a quiet and unassuming person, Mr. Speaker, but he took pride in working hard for his country. When not serving in the National Guard, he worked in Alexander City at Russell Corporation. Like every other soldier, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sgt. Bell died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

RECOGNIZING ANOKA, MINNESOTA, AS THE HALLOWEEN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the city of Anoka, Minnesota, as the "Halloween Capital of the World." Anoka has been holding Halloween festivities since 1920, when a group of business and civic leaders suggested the idea of

a celebration to deter old-time Halloween pranks. The community planned a night parade that featured children in costume marching along with members of the fire department, Kiwanis Club, Commercial Club and the National Guard.

Anoka first called itself the "Halloween Capital of the World" in 1937, with a proclamation carried to Washington, D.C. by 12 year-old Anoka resident, Harold Blair. Since the first celebration, the festivities have expanded to include card parties, bingo, a 5K Grey Ghost Run and a parade that is the second largest in the state. This year's celebration marks the 81st annual festival and was bigger and better than ever.

I would like to congratulate and thank the city of Anoka, the more than 30 volunteers and all who work to make the Anoka Halloween celebration a yearly success and a family event for everyone to enjoy.

RON PICKERING: DEDICATED TO
THE CAUSE OF LABOR

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the contributions of Ron Pickering, an individual of great importance to the working people of America, and particularly my state of Vermont. For the past ten years he served with distinction as the President of the Vermont AFL-CIO. Ron was a remarkably effective and dedicated leader of Vermont's most important labor council.

He has also served most capably as the international representative for PACE [the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union], in which capacity he serviced many contracts in New England.

I have known Ron for many years, both as a personal friend and as colleague in the struggle for workers' rights. It is with a sense of deep respect that I say that Ron Pickering reinvigorated the trade union movement in the state of Vermont and laid the groundwork for some of the most important labor victories in the state's history.

Ron has been one of the best and most influential advocates for working people the state of Vermont has ever seen. His effectiveness in the State House in Montpelier has meant that working men and woman have had a voice, and a most eloquent voice, in the deliberations of state government.

Together with his wife Gloria, who has time and again been at his side while he traveled throughout the state of Vermont, Ron Pickering has stood up for the labor movement, for the needs of working Americans, and for the rights of those who put in a hard day's work—every day—to see that America remains productive and strong.

TRIBUTE TO THE JAMES G.
SHAWGER SCHOOL NO. 4

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the James G. Shawger School No. 4 in Belleville, New Jersey, which celebrated its centennial on Sunday, November 2, 2003.

Over the past one hundred years, the James G. Shawger School has grown from a quaint four room school house into a modern twenty-five room school with well over 300 students. Built on the tradition of camaraderie, hard work, and dedication to quality education, the Shawger School has become a paradigm of learning, promoting personal integrity, excellence, and service in its students. It is thus only fitting that the James G. Shawger School No. 4 be honored, in this, the permanent RECORD of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Founded in 1903 in the Silver Lake District of Belleville, the James G. Shawger School was not unlike other turn-of-the-century schools. Brothers, sisters, and cousins attended classes that intermingled all of its students regardless of age and educational background. While at school, students were encouraged to better themselves through strict discipline and a commitment to learning the three R's (Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic). Early teachers and principals who set out with the goal of attaining the "betterment of all concerned," succeeded in creating a spirited school community of which all could be proud.

The emphasis that these "pioneer" teachers placed on fostering the academic, moral and social education of Belleville's young men and women was closely paralleled by the spirit of solidarity that permeated the early community in Belleville as a whole. This spirit was evident in the aftermath of the tragic fire that swept through the four-room school in the early 1900s. In the days following the fire, neighborhood fathers worked side by side with carpenters, volunteering their time to rebuild and renovate the school.

Over the years, parents gradually increased their role in the school community. The 1950's and 1960's saw parents begin to assume an integral role in their children's education with the formation of the Parent-Teacher Association and, later, the Home and School Association. Members of these organizations dedicated themselves to staying abreast of new legislation affecting education, preparing by-laws and coordinating activities for the students and their families. By the 1970's and 1980's, these activities broadened to encompass assembly programs, family events, and scholarship programs. The hard work, dedication, and countless fundraising activities on the part of the students and their parents through these organizations have made the Shawger School a model of excellence among its surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that the true goals of education should be to build character and intelligence. The dedicated teachers and principals of the James G. Shawger School who have left an indelible mark on the lives of thousands of Belleville's young men and women are perhaps the great-

est testimony to this. Their commitment to inspiring leadership, education, and service in the children of Belleville has long been a beacon of excellence—one that will shine well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the residents of the Township of Belleville, and me in paying tribute to the James G. Shawger School as it celebrates one hundred years devoted to molding the children of Belleville, New Jersey, into the leaders of tomorrow.

HONORING ELIZABETH
SCHROEDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elizabeth Schroeder, the executive director of the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce. In her seven years as executive director she has helped transform Mesquite into one of the premier resort and gaming communities in the United States. Her dedication to showcasing the community nationally, attracting new services, and creating a welcoming business climate will serve Mesquite well for decades to come. I want to thank Elizabeth Schroeder for everything she has done and wish her well in her future endeavors.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN BILL
CRAMER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Congressman Bill Cramer, one of our former colleagues who recently passed away.

William Cramer, or Bill as he was known, lived a life of public service. He served 18 months as a Naval gunnery officer during World War II and was among the brave young men who invaded France and liberated Europe. He returned to the United States following the war, and after graduating from Harvard Law School, served as a city and county attorney in Pinellas County, Florida. He also actively involved himself with local volunteer and charitable organizations.

Bill Cramer was a revolutionary in Florida politics. He was, when he won his seat in 1954, the first Republican from Florida elected to Congress since the Civil War. Congressman Cramer opened the door, so to speak, for Republicans seeking office in the Sunshine State. Before his election, many used to joke that Republicans could not get elected to anything in Florida, let alone a congressional seat. Congressman Cramer changed that and quickly became our party's standard bearer in the state.

Congressman Cramer, in just his fifth term, became the ranking member on the House Public Works Committee. In 1964, he became Vice Chairman of the House Republican Conference, the second ranking House Republican behind Michigan Congressman and future President Gerald Ford. He vacated his

House seat in 1970 for what ultimately was an unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate. One of Congressman Cramer's congressional aides, Appropriations Committee Chairman BILL YOUNG, replaced him as the representative of Florida's Tenth Congressional District.

Bill Cramer's public service did not end with his departure from Congress. He practiced law, held various positions with the Republican National Committee, and accepted several jobs in the Nixon and Ford Administrations. He then, as he later said, "decided he wanted to spend more time back home" where he grew up, so he returned to Florida where he continued to use his talent and influence to help Tampa Bay area residents.

Mr. Speaker, next year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Bill Cramer's election to Congress. I hope that, as we approach that milestone, our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join the Florida delegation in remembering him and his dedicated work in this institution on behalf of his constituents and his country.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3428

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill that would name a portion of the U.S. courthouse located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue, in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building." On August 31, 2003, Assistant United States Attorney Justin W. Williams, Chief of the Criminal Division in the Eastern District of Virginia, died tragically at the age of 61 from a heart attack as he jogged along the Potomac River in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Williams's untimely death marked the end of a career of a truly remarkable public servant who was loved and respected by all of his colleagues and those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Mr. Williams's distinguished career as a federal prosecutor began on May 11, 1970. During the ensuing 33 years he was either directly involved in or supervised every major federal prosecution in the Eastern District of Virginia, including the prosecutions of Aldrich Ames and Robert Hanssen, both of whom were convicted of spying for the Soviet Union. During his career, Mr. Williams was appointed Acting United States Attorney on two occasions, June 1979 to November 1981 and January 1986 to June 1986, during which time he served with distinction. He was also at various times First Assistant United States Attorney, Senior Litigation Counsel, and for most of his illustrious career Chief of the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. His many accomplishments and awards, far too numerous to list, included the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Furthering the Interest of the United States National Security (2002), as well as three Director's Awards for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Mr. Williams was a mentor and role model for all those who served in the U.S. Attorney's Office during his tenure, as well as those in law enforcement who worked with him. His illustrious career was a testimonial to courage,

conviction, fairness, and decency. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne Williams, and their two children, Andrew Grant Williams and Caitlin Grey Williams. He is also survived by his mother, Edith Williams. I urge all of my colleagues to support this fitting tribute to a truly remarkable public servant.

CELEBRATING THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF THE CHINA ASSOCIATION FOR EXPEDITION (CAE) AND THE SINO AMERICAN AVIATION HERITAGE FOUNDATION (SAAHF) IN THE DISCOVERY AND RECOVERY OF A HISTORIC P-40 AIRCRAFT

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and celebrate the collaborative efforts of the China Association for Expedition (CAE) and the Sino American Aviation Heritage Foundation (SAAHF) in the discovery and recovery of a historic P-40 aircraft that will forever bind America to China.

At the end of 1941, the Japanese military occupied much of China. As the world was consumed by the spread of global war, a group of American pilots valiantly fought to free China from the grip of Imperial Japan. This volunteer group of young men was called the American Volunteer Group, or the AVG. The pilots in the AVG were some of the first Americans to experience combat against the Japanese in World War II. Their brave and fearless acts earned this group the respect of friends and foes alike. Their heroic deeds and dedication to the defense of the Chinese people would eventually fly them into the annals of history immortalized forever as the legendary "Flying Tigers".

On April 28, 1942, a Curtiss P-40 Tomahawk fighter plane piloted by John Blackburn of the AVG mysteriously crashed into Lake Dianchi in Yunan, China. The lake bottom would be its resting place where it was nearly forgotten for over 60 years in the cold waters—slowly rusting away. It was not until 1997, when a group of Chinese and American military veterans and aviation enthusiasts teamed together in an unprecedented demonstration of American-Chinese relations, to locate, recover and restore this plane. On November 15, 2003, Americans and Chinese will once again join forces to commemorate the recovery of John Blackburn's P-40 from its murky grave.

This priceless piece of aviation history is thought to be the only surviving P-40 fighter aircraft belonging to the Flying Tigers. This war bird once protected the skies of China from a ruthless and determined enemy, and flew in support of Chinese airmen, soldiers, guerrilla fighters and civilians. Piloted by young Americans ready to sacrifice their lives to protect the people of China at a moment's notice yet steadfast in its mission to conquer a common enemy. This P-40 fighter plane symbolizes not only the great spirit of cooperation and trust, but also the mutual respect that existed between the American and Chinese people during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to recognize the efforts between our two countries in the

recovery of this historically valuable aircraft. But even more importantly, this endeavor grants the opportunity for citizens in both our great countries to rekindle this legacy of goodwill, hope, inspiration and trust.

13TH DISTRICT'S CONGRESSIONAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, just three weeks ago, twenty-one exceptional students from Southwest Florida experienced an adventure of a lifetime.

As participants in the 13th District's Congressional Classroom program, these competitively and independently selected young men and women spent a full week in Washington engaging in a unique, up-close study of our federal government.

They learned from a bipartisan array of some of the most eminent and experienced leaders in Washington, including Speaker HASTERT, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, and C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb. Then, they applied their newfound knowledge in a mock Congress session.

In conducting this mock session, the students were randomly assigned roles as Republicans and Democrats and as Legislators and District Representatives. I wish to congratulate Gary Shumard and Alex Clark, who tied for the award as the "Best Republican;" Peter Dobosz, who was recognized as the "Best Democrat," and Kelly Crawford and Cody John, who qualified for the honors of "Best Legislator" and "Best District Representative," respectively.

Mr. Speaker, the enthusiasm and zest for the values of good citizenship that these students displayed were truly inspiring. I thank them for their dedication, while looking forward to the outstanding contributions that they will make to our society.

HONORING DR. TIMOTHY P. RYAN

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Timothy P. Ryan, the new Chancellor of the University of New Orleans. On Saturday, November 1, Dr. Ryan accepted the appointment of the Louisiana State University System's Board of Supervisors to serve as the fifth Chancellor of the Lakefront campus.

Dr. Ryan received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of New Orleans in 1971 and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Ohio State University. He has been a member of the UNO faculty since 1976 and served as Dean of the College of Business Administration until accepting his new post as Chancellor. During his brief tenure as Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer at UNO, Dr. Ryan controlled the University's budget and demonstrated positive change.

Dr. Ryan has received overwhelming support from the University community and I look

forward to working closely with him on priorities for the University and New Orleans. I am confident that his experience and knowledge of Louisiana's higher education and its vital link to our economy will contribute to not only the University of New Orleans, but to our entire State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following votes on October 30, 2003, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 594; I would have voted "yea" on a motion to recommit H.R. 2691, the Interior Appropriations Conference Report.

Rollcall vote 595; I would have voted "nay" on final passage of H.R. 2691, the Interior Appropriations Conference Report. While I appreciate the hard work of the Committee and the funding in this bill that went to important projects in Oregon, I am disappointed that the bill contained significant cuts in the Conservation Trust Fund. I am also opposed to the anti-environmental riders in the bill, especially limits of judicial review in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests in Alaska.

Rollcall vote 596; I would have voted "yea" on H. Con. Res. 302, expressing the sense of Congress welcoming President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States on October 31, 2003.

Rollcall vote 597; I would have voted "nay" on the martial law rule allowing for the same day consideration of the Iraq supplemental appropriations bill. House rules require a one day layover requirement so members have a minimum amount of time to review the final report before voting on it. It is a travesty that the Republican leadership put this Congress in a position to vote on a bill that spends \$87 billion without adequate review.

Rollcall vote 598; I would have voted "yea" on this motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6, the Energy Bill. The motion to instruct would call on the conferees to abandon a provision allowing the EPA to extend smog standard deadlines for cities beyond the extension already provided for under the Clean Air Act. This provision is outside of the scope of the Conference Report and will result in dirtier air for communities around the country.

Rollcall vote 599; I would have voted "yea" on this motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Bill, to reject premium support.

Rollcall vote 600; I would have voted "yea" on the motion to recommit H.R. 3289, the Conference Report for the Iraq and Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Rollcall vote 601; I would have voted "nay" on final passage of H.R. 3289, the Conference Report for the Iraq and Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act. I voted against this legislation when it first came before the House and this final conference report still does too little for our troops, too little for Afghanistan, and does not address the problems we are facing in Iraq.

REPUDIATING ANTI-SEMITIC SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad made repugnant anti-Semitic statements when addressing the tenth Islamic Summit Conference.

Madam Speaker, I denounce and condemn this statement as dangerous, morally bankrupt and beyond the pale of civilized dialogue. His statement comes directly out of the Hitler playbook, and reflects centuries of anti-Semitism that have led to pogroms and genocide. Jewish, Muslim, or agnostic, black, white, yellow, or pink. We are all appalled by words and actions that spread hatred.

Prime Minister Mahathir has a long history of making unambiguous anti-Jewish utterances and actions and he has time and again identified himself as an implacable enemy of Jews.

Prime Minister Mahathir was an anti-Semite in 1970 when he wrote of the "hook-nosed" Jews. He was an anti-Semite in 1984, when he wouldn't let the New York Philharmonic play a composition by a Jewish musician, and in 1986, when he called Jews "monsters." He was an anti-Semite in 1994, when he banned "Schindler's List" and in 1997, when he attacked George Soros as a Jew robbing his country. And, indeed, he is an anti-Semite today.

In an interview with the Bangkok Post, Prime Minister Mahathir complained that his remarks had been taken out of context. "They picked up one sentence where I said that the Jews control the world," he protested, declaring that the reaction proved "they do control the world."

On the contrary, the reaction of most of the international community reflects the obvious: Prime Minister Mahathir is a bigot; an irresponsible and incendiary, nauseating prejudist.

Nevertheless, it got a standing ovation from the kings, presidents, sheiks and emirs—including key U.S. allies.

I am disillusioned that the moderate voices in the Arab world also remained silent. The Egyptian foreign minister, Ahmed Maher, called the speech "a very, very wise assessment." Asked by the AP whether he thought the speech was anti-Semitic, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said: "I don't think so."

In addition, I am especially outraged by the actions of French President Jacques Chirac and Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis to block the inclusion of a condemnation of Mahathir's anti-Semitic speech in the official statement of an EU summit.

Mahathir is retiring Oct. 31 after 22 years in power. Good riddance!

RECOGNIZING THE YOUTH SERVICES OF THE TEEN AIDS-PEERCORPS IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valuable educational services TeenAIDS-PeerCorps has provided for youth around the world. Over 42 million people throughout the world are infected with AIDS, and more than 7,000 children contract AIDS each day. Reports estimate that some 3 million children around the world have HIV or AIDS with an estimated 4,400 infected young adults between 13 and 19 years of age in the United States. Increased efforts to educate teenagers about the methods of transmission and ways to reduce their risk of contracting AIDS have helped to decrease the infection rate.

TeenAIDS-PeerCorps, located in Boston, Massachusetts, was created in 1995 to educate teenagers around the world about HIV and AIDS. By sponsoring programs across the globe and utilizing the Internet, TeenAIDS-PeerCorps has influenced the lives of many youths. Since the inception of TeenAIDS-PeerCorps, almost 135,000 teenagers in 60 countries and 20 U.S. states have been counseled on the dangers of HIV and AIDS. Teenagers are encouraged to share their experiences and learn from their peers about how HIV and AIDS have changed their lives.

For the past 5 years, Dr. John B. Chittick, a resident of Fitchburg, Massachusetts and Executive Director of TeenAIDS-PeerCorps, has been traveling on an international humanitarian effort to increase HIV and AIDS awareness. Dr. Chittick uses open discussion, stop-action improvisation theater, and a comic book to communicate his message to teens. The TeenAIDS-PeerCorps and Dr. Chittick's efforts have positively impacted and educated many youth. I applaud their efforts and urge the TeenAIDS-PeerCorps and Dr. Chittick to continue their domestic and international role as HIV and AIDS educators.

REINTRODUCTION OF JTTF LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that will ensure that local law enforcement is represented on Joint Terrorism Task Forces. It would codify the number of JTTFs for full nationwide coverage. This legislation allows for increased representation of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and provides for a sharing of federal and local law enforcement between agencies. No portion of our country is immune and no portion should be unprotected.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
DANIEL SOULES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Daniel Soules has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Daniel Soules has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Daniel Soules has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Daniel Soules must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Daniel Soules as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I had hoped to be able to vote for the final version of this supplemental appropriations bill, but I'm afraid the minor changes made in conference were not enough to overcome my grave reservations about the bill. So I cannot support this conference report.

I voted against the resolution that authorized the president to begin military actions in Iraq at a time and under conditions of his own choosing, regardless of the likely costs and sacrifices that would be required. I was concerned that the Bush Administration had a plan only for invasion, not for the subsequent "peace" and occupation, and was too ready to go it alone.

But Congress unwisely authorized the president to make Iraq the center of our war on terrorism, even without broad-based international support, and did so without a responsible debate that fully weighed the pros and cons of this strategic choice.

In short, I did not think Congress should give the president such a blank check—but we did, and the bills are coming due.

Now President Bush has asked Congress for an emergency appropriation of \$87 billion—the largest supplemental appropriation in history. His request comes when our economy is weak, there are escalating needs for national defense, homeland security, and domes-

tic programs—and he is still pressing for more tax cuts primarily benefiting the wealthy.

Of course, the Iraq bills must be paid. We must support our troops. And I support helping Iraq rebuild. It is in our national interest to have a stable Iraq, which will mean a safer environment for our troops and will be their ticket home. But I don't believe that our children should pay for the entire \$87 billion. In the past, our wars have been paid for by the generations that fought them. That is a reasonable policy and I think it should be true for Iraq.

If none of this money is to be a loan—and that is what the conference report provides—we should roll back the president's tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers. But we are not being allowed to vote on that idea. The Republican leadership refuses to let the Congress debate who should pay, or debate about priorities—in the war on terrorism or here at home.

Rejecting this flawed bill will not immediately cut off funds for our troops. CRS has confirmed that they have enough money to continue operations well into next year. There is no reason we can't have the normal "pay-as-you-go" approach that provides funding in installments and only after certain benchmarks and milestones are met. And the Bush Administration showed its hand when it threatened to veto any bill that includes loans as part of the reconstruction of Iraq. If the debate were about supplying the troops, why would the president think of vetoing their money?

I will not vote to spend billions in Iraq unless the administration does what it should already have done—that is, to provide detailed plans for Iraq's reconstruction and security; make concerted efforts to secure increased international participation under a UN resolution; demonstrate greater flexibility and openness toward questions of control over reconstruction and democratization; and craft a fiscally responsible plan to provide for the billions of dollars necessary.

To merely rubber stamp administration requests, as this conference report essentially does, is a neglect of our congressional duties, and I cannot support it.

PENINSULA FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLAZES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the extraordinary efforts of our firefighters called to duty in Southern California during the recent wildfires.

We all watched closely the television coverage of the terrifying devastation of unimaginable proportions in widespread fires so large we learned the names of the Old Fire, the Cedar Fire, and the Grand Prix Fire.

The latest statistics reflect the enormous impact caused by these fires. Twenty-one lives have been lost, nearly 3500 homes destroyed, with nearly 650,000 acres of state, federal, and private land involved. The firefighting cost alone is already estimated at over \$90 million. This only represents some of the measurable loss for no estimation can ever determine the human cost of lives, homes, and lands lost.

Firefighters from all over came to help their neighbors in this time of desperate need. An estimated 12,000 firefighters were on the fire line over last weekend. I am particularly proud of the firefighters from my Congressional district that responded to the alarm.

Fire Captain Charles Barringer of San Bruno, California, led a strike team of firefighters from Millbrae, San Mateo, Burlingame, Hillsborough, and San Bruno to help fight the blaze in Simi Valley in Ventura County. Captain Barringer said that he never had seen anything like it and that "it was like a volcano went off in the streets."

Another strike team led by Foster City Battalion Chief Stan Maupin was made up of firefighters from Woodside, Menlo Park, South County Fire, Redwood City, and Foster City. This team fought the fires in San Bernardino County.

Each of these two teams spent about a week fighting the fires and now have returned home. It is my understanding that a third team from San Mateo County consisting of firefighters from South San Francisco, Daly City, Colma, Half Moon Bay, and Hillsborough remains on duty in Southern California.

On behalf of the people of my district I wish to extend our heartfelt sympathies to those who have lost family members and friends. To those who are suffering from the devastation we hope you know that all your neighbors have stood with you and stand ready to help you rebuild and recover.

I am pleased to join my distinguished colleagues, Mrs. Davis and Mr. Hunter as a cosponsor of H. Res. 425 to recognize and honor the firefighters and other public servants who responded to the October 2003, historically devastating, outbreak of wildfires in Southern California.

I commend all those who have been engaged in this fight. Most particularly I commend those firefighters from San Francisco and San Mateo County who answered the call and risked their lives to help others. I have always been proud of our firefighters and am reminded once again of their dedicated and selfless service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
RYAN LAHNA

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ryan Lahna has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Ryan Lahna has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Ryan Lahna has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Ryan Lahna must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Ryan Lahna as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colorado's Regional Transportation District (RTD) for being named the best transit agency in the United States and Canada by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

The APTA represents 1,500 public transportation agencies nationwide. This award is given for large systems that provide more than 30 million passenger trips per year, and is based on the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the member agencies. The award measures performance over a 3-year period, and recognizes outstanding service and operations from 2000 to 2002.

Denver has been named the most congested city of its size in America and the third most congested city nationally. So, RTD's task is a big one. But it has performed admirably—keeping its operating costs competitive, increasing its ridership and delivering outstanding service to its customers. The District provided more than 81 million passenger miles last year within the seven county metropolitan Denver area, operating over 1,100 buses over 179 routes and 49 light rail vehicles. At the same time, through an aggressive accident prevention program, RTD has reduced accidents over the 3-year period by 54 percent. To date in 2003, accidents have been reduced an additional 32 percent below last year's levels, reaching another all-time record low. And, with an attentive response to Colorado's ever-growing population, RTD has continued to add rail and bus transit services and been able to reduce traffic congestion by 13 percent by providing mass transit options throughout the metropolitan area. Congestion costs have been reduced by \$220 million annually, reducing air pollution, fuel consumption, and drive times.

With its sites on the future needs of the metropolitan region, new light rail systems are being planned and developed. A recent public-private partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the City and County of Denver and local landowners, a development effort will renovate historic Union Station and the surrounding 19 acres to create an intermodal facility that will develop and expand transportation systems and commercial opportunities in central Denver.

RTD has been recognized for its quality, its sophisticated operations and its many safety improvements. Employees at the District benefit from General Manager, Cal Marsella's hands-on management style, and RTD has been recognized for its advancement of minority and female employees, and sensitivity to low-income and disabled customers through eco-passes and specially equipped buses. RTD's internal management has focused on strong marketing and community relations, policy development, financial management, and improved departmental and safety operations. With a concerted effort to provide innovative approaches to challenging transportation needs, Marsella has guided his 2,400 employees and 725 private service provider

employees to achieving this outstanding award.

I think Mary Blue, the RTD Chairman of the Board, put it well when she commended the staff by saying "Winning APTA's highest award shows that our prudent policies and sensible fiscal approach have paid off. This is a win not only for our employees and board members, but also for our passengers and taxpayers."

The Denver metropolitan area and Colorado are fortunate to have the Regional Transportation District provide outstanding service to its residents. We applaud their performance and celebrate the well deserved recognition they have received from the American Public Transportation Association.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CHEN
SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN UPON HIS
RECEPTION OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
AWARD

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the experts told us during the 1980's that freedom for South Africa was a lost cause, and sanctions would never work. South Africa is now free. They said that the Soviets would never release Nathan Sharansky. He is now a Member of the Israeli Cabinet. They said that freedom for East Timor was a lost cause. East Timor is now free. And they said democracy, free press and civil society would not thrive in Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan are living proof that there are no "lost causes" when it comes to human rights, only battles yet to be won. Taiwan's democratic development is exemplary of Chinese people around the world who, regardless of where they live, seek the same basic human freedoms as everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, like South Africa, Soviet refusniks, and East Timor, the road to freedom in Taiwan was not easy, and there were many choices to be made along the way. After political activists in Taiwan were arrested in 1980, Chen Shui-bian could have stayed silent. But instead, he joined the team of attorneys defending them. In 1986, when the Taiwan Government locked Mr. Chen behind bars for "criminal libel"—otherwise known as telling the truth—it would have been easy to withdraw from politics upon his release. Instead, Mr. Chen joined the Democratic Progressive Party, and ran successfully for the legislature in 1989.

In 1994, Mr. Chen ran for Mayor of Taipei even though the position of mayor had never been held by a member of the opposition party. He won. And during the 2000 Presidential elections in Taiwan, it seemed inconceivable that a member of the opposition would actually win the presidency for the first time in Taiwan's history. Not only did he prevail, but the peaceful transition of power demonstrated the strength and vitality of Taiwan's nascent democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it would have been easy upon Mr. Chen's election to focus solely on "bread and butter" issues—the economy, national security, education. He did all that, but Mr. Chen

never forgot the battle he waged for freedom, and the moral imperative to constantly fight for internationally-recognized human rights, freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, President Chen Shui-bian proceeded to enshrine human rights as part of Taiwan's laws. He established Taiwan's first-ever Human Rights Advisory Committee. He continues to fight for the Taiwanese people to receive the respect they deserve in the international community. And he has zealously guarded and promoted Taiwan's democratic system, serving as a beacon for democracy throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, some great fighters for freedom and human rights have preceded President Chen Shui-bian in receiving the International Human Rights Award—Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Andrei Sakahrov, and George Mitchell, to name but a few. Given Mr. Chen's decades-long struggle for human rights and democracy in Taiwan, it is only fit and just that he has been invited to join this most-exclusive and noble club.

It is with great pleasure that I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of President Chen's speech upon accepting the International Human Rights Award.

(By President Chen Shui-bian, Republic of China)

President Horton, Congressman Lantos, Congressman Ackerman, Mr. Rabaut, Mr. Wu, Executive Director Dr. Kantrow, Board Member Dr. Chen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: Good evening!

On behalf of the government and people of Taiwan, I would like to pay special tribute to the International League for Human Rights (ILHR). Over the last 62 years since its establishment, the League has worked unrelentingly in carrying out its mission of defending human rights and rights advocates who have risked their lives to promote the ideals of a just and civil society.

The Human Rights Award conferred on me this evening is an honor bestowed upon the 23 million people of Taiwan. It signifies both affirmations and expectations. The award is representative of the international validation that the people of Taiwan have received for decades of effort in pursuit of democracy, freedom and human rights. It is also a reminder that we have assumed by destiny the duty of protecting human rights and of upholding international human rights principles.

The year 2000 marked Taiwan's first peaceful transfer of power and our country's first alternation of political parties, an accomplishment unprecedented in the history of all Chinese societies. In my inaugural speech, I proposed a goal of building our nation on the principles of human rights. We are committed to abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. We also pledged to bring Taiwan on par with the international human rights system despite our authoritarian past.

Over the past three and a half years, concrete actions have been taken to fulfill our commitments. In step with the institutionalization of human rights protection mechanisms, comprehensive human rights policies and implementation measures have been carefully drafted, as outlined in our Human Rights Policy White Paper, and the Organic Law of the National Human Rights Commission is currently under review in our National Legislature.

My office has established a presidential Human Rights Advisory Committee and the Cabinet has also established an Inter-Ministerial Committee. Both have been collaborating with local and international human

rights NGOs for the purpose of incorporating the International Bill of Rights into a "Taiwan Bill of Rights." Furthermore, the "National Human Rights Report" will soon be published—another first for Taiwan—and work is in progress for a National Human Rights Memorial Museum responsible for social education and raising public awareness.

My friends, although our journey has not been easy, Taiwan has not stood alone. Support from the international community, particularly the United States, has played a critical role. I will never forget the watershed event—the Kaohsiung Incident—in Taiwan's democratization process. On December 10, 1979, a group of Taiwan citizens defiantly held a rally to commemorate International Human Rights Day. Because such activity was forbidden by the ruling regime of the time, rally leaders were charged with illegal assembly and conspiracy for sedition.

As a defense attorney in the Kaohsiung Incident, I personally witnessed the efforts of ILHR, who sent Professor John Kaplan to Taiwan to observe the trail at the military tribunal. The rest of the international human rights community also rendered assistance—and inspiration—to Taiwan's democratic movement.

My wife and I were both victims of human rights violation. I was sentenced to prison for fighting for freedom of speech. My wife was seriously injured in what is believed to be a politically motivated accident and must spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair. However, like the brave sacrifices made by Taiwan's pioneers of democracy, our suffering only serves to strengthen the determination of the Taiwanese people in their pursuit of political and personal freedoms.

Today, there are no more black lists, no more political prisoners, no more religious persecution. Citizens in Taiwan now enjoy full civil rights—freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and other categories of rights. Despite our exclusion from the United Nations, Taiwan has never slowed its pace to push for human rights reform.

At a time when the international community is caught up in debates on "clashes of civilization" with regard to human rights protection, Taiwan's experience is proof that human rights are a universal value and humanity's common asset. All countries and individuals should have access to these universal rights; none should be subjected to a double-standard. As stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the government of the United States of America for its efforts to help promote human rights in Taiwan. Section II(C) of the "Taiwan Relations Act", which was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1979, stipulates that "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan are hereby reaffirmed as objective of the United States." We appreciate, and are always mindful of the concern and support a more established democracy has given to a fledging one.

Taiwan's achievement in human rights and democracy so far would not have been possible were it not for the generosity of those of the international community who have stood behind us. Likewise, we would not be able to receive the affirmation and commendation of the ILHR and other international human rights organizations.

Of course, a sound and solid institutionalized system is requisite for the effective pro-

tection of human rights. Taiwan has now established a fair electoral environment with an increasingly vigorous civil society. However, much remain to be further strengthened in terms of consolidating and deepening our democracy and human rights. Whether we succeed or not would rely on the collective and continuing efforts of the people, particularly on whether we can consolidate our democracy by rectifying the inadequacies in our constitutional framework.

More than two centuries ago, the founding fathers of the United States spurred in Constitutional debate, prompting a great New Yorker, Mr. Alexander Hamilton to criticize "the insufficiency of the present Confederation to preserve the Union." He argued in "The Federalist Papers" that the Articles of Confederation failed to address issues such as a checks-and-balances system of the government, separation of powers among agencies, fair representation of the states, and safeguarding freedom of the people. He concluded that the very design of the Articles of Confederation was insufficient to meet the needs of the American people.

As a result of extensive discussions and debates by America's founding fathers, the Constitution of the United States of America was created and has been honored to this day. The U.S. Constitution became the pulse of American society, and allowed for amendments, including Bill of Rights, to be incorporated, thereby guaranteeing freedom and laying a strong foundation for sustainable development of the American democracy.

Taiwan now faces a similar "insufficiency" of the constitutional framework. As my country's leader, it is imperative that I shoulder responsibility for Taiwan's national development and set a clear vision for the future. I believe that a sound and sustainable constitutional framework can be created through rational debate and engendered by civic consciousness. This is the rationale upon which I have proposed the concept of "hastening the birth of a new constitution for Taiwan."

The "hastening of a new Taiwan constitution" will determine whether or not our democracy can come into full bloom. This, strengthened and supplemented by the institutions of direct democracy, such as referendums, would be a necessary step in advancing Taiwan's human rights and the deepening of its democracy. One must not be misled by the contention that holding referendums or re-engineering our constitutional framework, bears any relevance to the "Four No's plus one" pledge presented in my inaugural speech. Neither should matters concerning Taiwan's constitutional development be simplistically interpreted as a political debate of "unification versus independence." I stand before you today, appealing to the collective conscience of the world community, asking that the voice of Taiwan be heard, for ours is the voice of democracy and progress. It is my job as President, to safeguard the security, democracy, freedom and human rights of the 23 million people of Taiwan, and, in so doing, build a solid foundation for the sustainable progress of Taiwan's continuing democratization.

The progression of democracy and human rights in Taiwan not only signifies a triumph of our people in the relentless pursuit for freedom, it is also a torch of democracy for all Chinese societies and has become an indispensable asset to the United States as well as the international society. I have great confidence that by advancing our democracy, we shall show where Taiwan stands in terms of values: a veritable part of the world's democratic community.

While furthering human rights in Taiwan, I call for a joint effort among Asian governments and regional NGOs for a regional

framework for the advancement of human rights, including a state-sponsored regional charter, a regional commission, and a regional court of human rights. The newly founded Taiwan Foundation for Democracy can serve as one of the channels through which we shall endeavor to make our rightful contributions and share out experience in the protection and promotion of human rights. I want Taiwan to be a positive contributing force in the international human rights movement.

On the Green Island, situated off the south-east coast of Taiwan, there used to be a concentration camp and prison for the confinement and deprivation of countless human rights defenders. On this island, the Taiwanese equivalent to the infamous Robin Island of South Africa, there stands a monument on which names of victims of human rights abuse are inscribed. The epitaph reads: "In those times, how mothers wept through long nights for their imprisoned children."

I have kept that epitaph in my heart, and tonight, I would like to share it with you as a tribute to all who support, advocate, and have stood up in the name of human rights: Let there be no more fear, let there be no more tears. Let the world take Taiwan as an example. She is emerging from her democratic metamorphosis.

Thank you.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JONATHAN ROBERT BROUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Jonathan Robert Brouse as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

HONORING DR. PAUL F. HOM

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the late Dr. Paul F. Hom, a man who made numerous invaluable contributions to the Sacramento Community. Due to strong public support, the Sacramento County Health and Human Services will memorialize Dr. Hom's important service to the community by naming the new County Primary Care Building after him. As his friends, family, and admirers gather to pay tribute to Dr. Hom's remarkable life

and celebrate the opening of the Paul Hom Primary Care Building, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this great humanitarian.

To say that Dr. Hom was a man of great intellect would only begin to skim the surface of his scholarly prowess. Dr. Hom graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in History. In 1966, Dr. Hom completed his law degree from Hastings College of Law, University of California. During his brief, yet meaningful legal career, Dr. Hom exhibited his trademark commitment to social justice by serving as a VISTA volunteer in Texas and Mississippi in 1966 and 1967. In 1969, Dr. Hom volunteered for Attorney-Neighborhood Legal Services in Compton, California. Driven by a realization that the poor cared more about medical issues than voting and civil rights, Dr. Hom enrolled in medical school and earned his medical degree from the University of California, Davis in 1973. In 1978, Dr. Hom received a degree in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Hom's impressive academic achievements are a testament to his intelligence and work ethic.

During his second year in medical school, Dr. Hom and Dr. Garrett Lee held a series of meetings with a group of concerned undergraduate students to discuss improving health care for Sacramento's elderly Asian residents. The students concluded that many of the elderly Asians as well as the newly arrived immigrant families were having difficulty in obtaining adequate health care due to socioeconomic and language barriers and decided to start a free clinic to target this problem.

In 1972, the Asian Clinic was established to become an elective course for medical and undergraduate students. Since 1972, the Asian Clinic continues to serve the Asian community in downtown Sacramento every Saturday. Today, the posthumously named Paul Hom Asian Clinic is the oldest existing Asian clinic in the United States and a vivid reminder of the positive vision and powerful legacy of Dr. Hom.

The many functions of the Paul F. Hom Primary Care Center will serve as the proper embodiment of the vision of its namesake. The Center, designed to handle 100 patient-visits a day for primary care and 150 walk-ins, provides a full range of services including a Chest clinic, Pharmacy, Public Health Laboratory, Radiology Department, Healthcare for the Homeless program and Refugee Health Clinic. It also serves the medically indigent of Sacramento County who are in need of medical assistance and ultimately improves access to care for residents of Sacramento County. All in all, the Paul F. Hom Primary Care Center will enhance the access to quality and effective health care for people without health care. In addition, the center will also enable health administrators to carry out their important responsibilities in a more efficient method.

Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Hom's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate the opening of the Paul Hom Primary Care Building, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most giving and cherished citizens. Dr. Hom's legacy is a true testament to community service. If a template for leadership could be made, it would surely bear the resemblance of Dr. Paul Hom. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy of compassion and care for the disadvantaged will continue to live on. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me

in thanking Dr. Paul F. Hom for his numerous contributions to the Sacramento community.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
GREG MCCLEERY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Greg McCleery has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Greg McCleery has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Greg McCleery has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Greg McCleery must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Greg McCleery as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

NEW YORK'S FINEST: THE MEN OF
THE 75TH PRECINCT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Edward Vasquez, Dino Anselmo and Brian Latimore; detectives of the 75th Precinct in Brooklyn, for their recent heroic efforts.

While we are rightly reminded about the heroism of police officers, and other first responders after 9/11, police officers risk their lives to save others' lives every day of the year. As an example of one such heroic effort, I am submitting for the RECORD an article published on November 3, 2003, in the N.Y. Daily News about how three Brooklyn detectives who saved the life of a young girl trapped inside a burning building. For their efforts, all of us from New York City, especially those from Brooklyn, are proud and grateful.

[From the New York Daily News]

HERO OF THE MONTH: COPS DONNED FIRE HATS

(By Patrice O'Shaughnessy)

(Hero of the Month spotlights those men and women, civil servants and civilians, who go beyond the call of duty to make New York a better place.)

Edward Vasquez, Dino Anselmo and Brian Latimore are three longtime detectives in East New York, Brooklyn, used to confronting gunmen and tracking down murder suspects. Racing into a smoke-filled building recently to evacuate tenants proved to be equally tense.

"It's just a reaction," Latimore said. "You see a guy with a gun, you don't think about it while you're doing it. You just think about getting another gun off the street. We saw the smoke; we all knew we were going to go."

The result brought the same satisfaction. "Everybody got out safe; that's what it's all about," Latimore said.

For disregarding their own safety and rescuing a 4-year-old girl and several adults from a fire, the three are the Daily News Heroes of the Month.

"They could have just stood outside and called 911," said Mariano Alvarado, whose daughter, Taija, was carried out by the cops. "They cared about getting people out. They ran in themselves."

The detectives, all of whom have young daughters, were driving on Pitkin Ave. on their way to the 75th Precinct station at 9:45 a.m. on Sept. 23, after searching for a robbery suspect, when Anselmo spotted smoke.

Latimore turned their car down Ashford St., and they saw smoke pouring out from the top of a three-story building.

It was raining hard. "Not a soul was on the block," Vasquez said.

The building was run-down—the windows of the top floor boarded up, tenants on the second floor, squatters living on the first.

"I was pretty sure it was occupied, because I saw a Big Wheels on the second-floor fire escape," Vasquez said. "We got out of the car and ran right in."

They started banging on doors on the first floor. The smoke was coming down the stairs and filling the hallway, which was dimly lit to start with.

"The landing was all black smoke," Anselmo said. "Brian went to the car to get a flashlight. . . . I found three adults in the rear apartment on the first floor. We asked if anyone was upstairs, and they said a family and a little baby."

Vasquez went up. "I was holding onto the wall going up stairs. The plywood was hot. . . . I was afraid the stairs would fall."

He kicked an apartment door open and saw Alvarado waking up in an apartment full of smoke. Alvarado said he had not smelled any fire. "I heard someone trying to kick in the door. . . . My daughter was watching TV in the bedroom, my wife and baby daughter were at the hospital and a detective was in my kitchen," he said.

"He grabbed my daughter and another cop grabbed me. It was pretty smoky in the stairs." Vasquez put his jacket over Taija and Anselmo hustled Alvarado out. "I could hear crackling and crashing, and I started coughing, and then I saw a little beam of light," Anselmo said. "Brian got us out."

Taija was taken to a hospital and treated for smoke inhalation. Anselmo was given oxygen, then he and Vasquez went to the 102nd Precinct in Queens to interview some gun suspects. Latimore went back to the squad room and finished his shift.

"You reacted, did what you had to do and got back to work," Anselmo said. "Later, as people started to ask us about it, it felt good."

Alvarado and his family are in temporary housing; his youngest child has high levels of lead from substandard housing and requires medical treatment. "I don't know where we will go next," Alvarado said. They cannot return to 344 Ashford St. because the utilities have been shut off—the building was declared dangerous to live in—and the apartment has been looted of pipes and a new radiator, Alvarado said.

The three detectives were recognized by the police Honor Legion. Vasquez said his 10-year-old daughter, Rachel, was so excited that she kept trying on different dresses to wear to the dinner. "A lot of guys have done a lot of good things here," Vasquez said. "You feel great after the fact. And my family was very proud."

MOTION OF MR. FILNER TO
INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 6

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion of Mr. FILNER to instruct the conferees on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, and to reject the waiver of the Clean Water Act being considered currently in conference.

Mr. Speaker, the conferees on the Energy Conference are preparing to approve a permanent exemption from the Clean Water Act for all construction activities associated with oil and gas exploration and production. This is unprecedented and needs further review.

Polluted runoff from precipitation events is the greatest remaining impediment to the Nation meeting its stated goal of clean, fishable and swimmable waters. Yet, even as the Environmental Protection Agency and the states are implementing reasonable measures to reduce such pollution, the Energy Bill conferees are preparing to approve a permanent exemption for one particular industry.

This exemption is also quite unnecessary. EPA, after much pressure from the oil and gas industry, decided to grant the oil and gas industry a two-year moratorium from the new rule that became effective this past March. However, not content with having EPA take another look at the issue, the industry now seeks a permanent exemption. The exemption applies regardless of the size of the construction site, regardless of the water quality impacts, and regardless of the wishes of an affected state.

Mr. Speaker, blanket exemptions from the Clean Water Act should bear the highest burden of proof before this House ever grants its approval. This never happened.

This provision was a stealth addition to the energy bill when it was considered at the Commerce Committee. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was never given the opportunity to consider the provision. When the bill was on the House Floor, I joined with Ranking-Member OBERSTAR and Mr. MARKEY to strike the provision through amendment, but we were denied the opportunity. The entire process has been disappointing.

If the conferees approve the Clean Water Act exemption it will harm human health and the environment; it does not belong in the Energy bill; and I strongly urge support of Mr. FILNER's motion to instruct the conferees.

IN RECOGNITION OF CALLEGUAS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service that Calleguas Municipal Water District has provided to a vast majority of my constituents in Ventura County, California, for the past 50 years.

Calleguas' mission "is to provide its service area with a reliable and adequate supply of

quality supplemental water through the acquisition and distribution of both regional and locally developed water in an environmentally and economically responsible manner." It has been doing so since voters created the district in 1953.

As the county grew, so did Calleguas. The population of the district's service area boomed from 138,000 in 1964 to an estimated 520,000 in 1996, and annual deliveries increased from 9,000 acre feet to in excess of 95,000 acre feet over the same period.

In 1960, Calleguas joined with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to import water from the State Water Project. It supplies all or some of the water to about 75 percent of Ventura County's population, including residences and businesses in the cities of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Moorpark, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme, through 20 local agencies and private customers.

This is a challenge under the best of conditions. But with a severe drought lingering over the area for 10 years and earthquakes wreaking havoc on infrastructure, it has been a gargantuan task.

Calleguas has risen to the challenge. It is in the process of developing a storage capacity of up to 300,000 acre-feet of potable water in the Lower Aquifer System of the Las Posas Groundwater Basin. This is in addition to the 12 reservoirs and 10,000 acre-foot lake it already maintains and operates.

It is reclaiming 14,000 acre feet per year of highly treated wastewater effluent from the Conejo Creek for agricultural irrigation, one of its many programs to treat, reuse, store, and conserve water.

At the same time, Calleguas has proven to be an exceptional environmental steward. It has assumed a leadership role in the development of the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan, a public-private alliance formed to develop an integrated strategy for the protection and enhancement of the watershed and its resources. Mr. Speaker, Congress is a partner in this effort, as well.

Water is the lifeblood of any community. Calleguas has done an exceptional job of protecting this precious resource and enhancing its delivery, treatment, and storage.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Calleguas Municipal Water District for 50 years of outstanding service, and thank Calleguas for its efforts to provide a stable water supply for the residents and businesses of Ventura County, California.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE JORGENSEN,
DIRECTOR, RIVERSIDE NATIONAL
CEMETERY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live. Steve Jorgensen is one of these individuals.

Steve will be retiring as Director of the Riverside National Cemetery this year and his dedication and contributions will be missed.

Steve is a native of Oregon where he joined the United States Army and served honorably for three years. In 1976, he graduated from Mount Hood College and later attended College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas.

Steve joined the National Cemetery System in June 1973, while still a student, as a cemetery caretaker at Willamette National Cemetery located in Portland, Oregon. In January of 1977, he was elected as a cemetery director trainee and remained at Willamette for the year long program. After completion of the program, he was named Director at Eagle Point, Oregon National Cemetery and remained there for a year and a half. He served as Director of the Fort Smith, Arkansas National Cemetery; Director of the San Francisco, California National Cemetery; Assistant Director of the Willamette National Cemetery; and Director of the Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

Steve was appointed to Director of Riverside National Cemetery in October 1991 and has been responsible for all burial and maintenance operations at the cemetery. Riverside National Cemetery is one of our nation's largest cemeteries and is the most active. The 921-acre facility has 288 developed acres, performs 8,000 burials yearly, and has over 145,000 gravesites to maintain. The facility is revered for its high standards of maintenance and efficiency. Under Steve's excellent leadership the facility has achieved the highest awards possible within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Robert W. Carey Organizational Excellence Award. The cemetery received this prestigious award in 1996, 2002 and 2003.

Steve's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside California. His unwavering commitment to maintaining the dignity of the Riverside National Cemetery is a source of pride to his community and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members, veterans and spouses of veterans are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

HONORING THE WORK OF UPPER
CUMBERLAND CARDIOLOGY CON-
SULTANTS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work being done at Upper Cumberland Cardiology Consultants. The Cookeville, Tennessee, medical office has been accredited a "Cardiovascular Center of Excellence" by the Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control, one of only four such centers in the state.

Through this association, the cardiology group will have access to an expansive network of cardiovascular knowledge and resources across the Southeast. Upper Cumberland Cardiology Consultants, a group of six local physicians, can use those resources to tailor a patient's treatment regimen depending on other successes and experiences.

Because heart disease is so prevalent across the Southeast and is the leading cause of death to Americans, it's important we have the resources and training necessary to combat this deadly disease. The Cookeville cardiology group strives to have not only cutting-edge knowledge to treat heart disease, but it also strives to have that kind of knowledge to educate and prevent heart disease. The Cardiovascular Center of Excellence designation helps accomplish both goals.

Led by Drs. R. Alex Case, J. Bunker Stout, Timothy S. Fournet, Michael B. Lenhart, Joel S. Tanedo and Brian Dockery, the Upper Cumberland Cardiology Consultants is a fine example of professionalism and compassion. This group of highly motivated and skilled physicians is an asset to the region. I commend them for their service to their patients and their profession.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on October 30, 2003. I would like the record to show that, had I been present in this Chamber, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 580, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 592, 595, and 597. I also would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 581, 582, 583, 591, 593, 594, 596, 598 and 599.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on October 31, 2003. I would like the record to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 600 and "nay" on rollcall vote 601.

JOHANNA'S LAW

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce Johanna's Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act.

Every hour, approximately 10 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer like ovarian, cervical, or uterine cancer. Every year, 26,000 women die of a gynecologic cancer.

This is a tragedy. What makes it still more tragic is that many of those deaths could be prevented if more women knew the risk factors and recognized the early symptoms of gynecologic cancers so that they could discuss them with their doctors. As we worked on this bill, we heard story after story of women who did not recognize their early symptoms or wasted precious months waiting for appointments with the wrong kind of specialists because they and their doctors did not recognize their symptoms as gynecologic.

For ovarian cancer, the most deadly of the gynecologic cancers, the five-year survival rate for women whose cancer is detected in Stage 1 is 90 percent. In Stage 2, the survival rate is still 80 percent. But if the cancer pro-

ceeds to Stage 3 or 4, the survival rate drops dramatically, to 20 percent or less.

Unfortunately, not all gynecologic cancers have a screening test accurate enough to be used routinely on asymptomatic women. That doesn't mean they can't be detected and diagnosed early in many cases. A recent study found that almost 90 percent of women with early stage ovarian cancer had symptoms before being diagnosed. That's why public education is key—if women and their doctors know the risk factors and early signs, a specialist can use diagnostic tools to rule out cancer or detect it in the early stages.

Johanna's Law would create a federal campaign to increase early detection of these deadly cancers, and, when possible, help women reduce their risk of ever contracting them. The legislation takes a two-pronged approach, combining a national Public Service Announcement directed at all women with targeted grants to local and national organizations.

We named the legislation "Johanna's Law" after Johanna Silver Gordon, who was a long-time public school teacher in my congressional district and who died of ovarian cancer after being diagnosed in a later stage. Unfortunately, Johanna's story is all too common. I owe a special thanks to Johanna's sister, Sheryl Silver, and her family for telling Johanna's story so eloquently and working so tirelessly to ensure a better outcome for other women and their families.

I look forward to working with my cosponsor, Representative KAY GRANGER, and all of my colleagues to enact this important legislation into law.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL SAND, STONE AND GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to the National Sand, Stone and Gravel Association on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary. For the last 100 years this Association and its many members have contributed to our Nation's economy and have greatly improved the quality of life of all Americans.

To put into perspective the vital role these elements play in each of our lives I would like to share some statistics with you. If we place usage on our population; incredibly each year, every man, woman and child would use about 10 tons of sand, stone and gravel. Many of us probably fail to realize that it takes 400 tons of crushed stone, sand and gravel to build the average home and 38,000 tons for each mile of interstate highway. Without these important elements our Nation would be without roads, streets, sidewalks and runways. Additionally, we often forget that pulverized minerals from rock touch our everyday lives in products such as plastics, paint, pharmaceuticals, toothpaste, glass and chewing gum.

The aggregate industry also has tremendous impact upon our Nation's economy. The industry directly employs more than 120,000 individuals. For every million dollars that this industry outputs 19.5 jobs are created. In 2001

the aggregate industry contributed just over 14.5 billion in direct output to our economy. If we were to take into consideration the indirect benefits combined with direct output, this industry contributes \$37.6 billion to the GDP and supports over 284,000 jobs. That is an awfully impressive record.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the aggregate industry's impact upon each of our daily lives and our economy is immense. I wholeheartedly congratulate the National Sand, Stone and Gravel association and its members on a most impressive 100 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1987

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 15th anniversary of the United States taking a principled stand toward ensuring that the lessons of past genocides, such as Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda, will be used to prevent future genocides.

After the horrors of the Holocaust, the international community responded to Nazi Germany's methodically orchestrated acts of genocide by approving the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948. The Convention confirms that genocide is a crime under international law and defines genocide as actions committed with intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

The United States, under President Harry Truman, was the first nation to sign the Convention, and it was ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1986. Following the Senate ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Congress passed the Proxmire Act to implement the Convention and criminalize genocide under U.S. law.

Fifteen years ago today, President Ronald Reagan signed the Proxmire Act into law and put the United States on record as being strongly opposed to the heinous crime of genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge consideration of H. Res. 193, legislation that I introduced with my colleague, Mr. RADANOVICH, reaffirming support of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and commemorating the anniversary of the U.S. becoming a full party to this landmark international human rights legislation.

This important piece of legislation has tremendous bipartisan support among the 110 cosponsors, and the bill was passed unanimously by the House Judiciary Committee earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House Leadership to permit immediate consideration of this legislation on the floor of the House, and I urge my colleagues to reaffirm our national resolve to ensure that the lessons of the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda, among others, will not be forgotten.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT
AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security Act.

More than 2.6 million Americans have lost their jobs since President Bush took office in January 2001. In fact, the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in September 2003, 9 million Americans were officially jobless. Some experts, including the BLS, have suggested that the number of unemployed or underemployed is actually somewhere near 15.5 million. The BLS notes that approximately 6.5 million workers are underemployed or so frustrated at the current job market that they have given up looking for jobs.

During times of high unemployment, Americans experience increases in domestic abuse, alcoholism, crime, illness, and in many instances, suicides. All of these increases stem not only from the loss of one's job, but also from the depression that develops as a result of extended unemployment.

Realize, current U.S. public policy addresses the economic hardships that arise from unemployment through the unemployment insurance program. For a privileged few, the government even assists in providing health care to the unemployed. But what the U.S. government fails to do is provide assistance to the unemployed in dealing with the human dimension of unemployment.

Perhaps this is true because the human factor does not allow for a one size fits all formula solution. Or perhaps it's because Congress never thinks about the human factor, labeling the unemployed as lazy and unmotivated, rather than the victims of economic situations of the times that they are. But for whatever reason, Congress has never addressed this very important tool in understanding the effects of long-term unemployment. That, Mr. Speaker, is completely unacceptable.

The legislation I introduce today establishes the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security, a national commission to examine the psychological effects of extended unemployment. Specifically, the 15 member commission is instructed to examine increases in violence by employees and former employees in the workplace and in their private lives, the effects of well-paying jobs in the U.S., the psychological insecurity caused by the loss of a job, and make recommendations to the Legislative and Executive branches on actions to alleviate the psychological insecurity of the U.S. workforce.

I am confident that this commission will provide Congress and the President with an array of policy recommendations on how we might best address the human factor of unemployment. The livelihoods of more than fifteen million Americans are depending on it.

I ask for the support of my colleagues, and I urge the House Leadership to bring the bill to the floor expeditiously.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HISTORIC SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 155TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Second Baptist Church, the second oldest African American Baptist congregation in the District of Columbia, as it prepares to celebrate its 155th anniversary on Sunday, November 16, 2003, and its designation as a historic landmark in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites by the Historic Preservation Review Board.

History has documented the critical role African American churches have played not only as places of spiritual fortification, but also as centers of political activism, and neighborhood preservation. Second Baptist Church is a shining example of these functions.

Second Baptist Church, located at 816 3rd Street, NW., is a longstanding anchor of a changing neighborhood north of H Street and west of North Capitol Street. Founded in 1848, Second Baptist Church was started 14 years before slaves in the District of Columbia were freed.

The church was erected in 1894 and designed by prominent Washington architect, Appleton P. Clark, Jr. Second Baptist Church represents a revival of the early phase of Gothic church architecture, but rendered in late Victorian fashion. The beautiful rose window, square towers and rusticated limestone on a granite base are suggestive of Romanesque.

Second Baptist Church began when seven members of the First Colored Baptist Church, now Nineteenth Baptist Church, left to organize the Second Colored Baptist Church of Washington City, District of Columbia.

Second Baptist Church served as a station on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War and the preceding years. It was one of the few Negro churches in Washington, D.C. that had a black minister prior to President Lincoln's Inauguration.

Second Baptist Church is considered the "Mother Church" for the Baptist community because from it Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in NW; Mt. Olive Baptist Church in NW; Rehoboth Baptist Church in SW; Central Baptist Church (later disbanded); St. Paul Baptist Church in Bladensburg, MD; Ebenezer and First Baptist in Takoma Park, MD were formed.

During the course of its 155 years, Second Baptist Church has had only 15 pastors: Licentiate H.H. Butler—1848; Rev. Jeremiah Asher—1849; Rev. Gustavus Brown—1850; Rev. Henry Butler—1853; Rev. Sandy Alexander—1856; Rev. Caleb Woodward—1861; Rev. John Mays (Maze)—1864; Rev. Sandy Alexander—1865; Rev. Chauncey Leonard—1868; Rev. John Gaines—1869; Rev. Madison Gaskins—1871; Rev. William Bishop Johnson—1883; Rev. Dr. J.L.S. Hollowman—1917; Rev. Smalls Bartley—1971; and Rev. Dr. James E. Terrell—1997 to the present.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting Rev. James E. Terrell, and the congregation of Second Baptist Church in the Dis-

trict of Columbia on the occasion of its 155th anniversary, November 16, 2003.

FREEDOM FOR HÉCTOR FERNANDO
MASEDA GUTIERREZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Héctor Fernando Maseda Gutierrez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Maseda, age 60, is an engineer and physicist by profession. He studied the logic and reason behind how machines work, how nature operates. He also realized that Castro's repressive regime constitutes a nightmare for the Cuban people.

Mr. Maseda joined pro-democracy groups that work to obtain basic human rights for the people of Cuba. He eventually became a member of the Liberal Democratic Cuban Party and the director of the Liberal Studies Center. As Mr. Maseda became more active within the movement, he began to chronicle the savage practices of the regime for independent newspapers and websites. Unfortunately, not all of these articles reached the outside world, among the articles confiscated by the political police were: "The forced workers of Cuba" and "Havana: the capital of sexual tourism."

On March 18, 2003, Mr. Maseda was arrested and his typewriter, a fax machine, books, and his journalistic writings were confiscated. In a sham trial, he was subsequently sentenced to 20 years in the Cuban gulag for writing articles "which twist the society and reality of Cuba" and for "maintaining relations with Florida International University."

Mr. Maseda currently languishes in the Cuban totalitarian gulag. He has been muted and gagged for writing about the systematic abuses of human rights that occur under Castro's totalitarian rule. Mr. Speaker, the reality of Castro's repressive regime continues to be that men and women who write the truth are locked in the Cuban gulag while their oppressor remains in power.

My colleagues, we must fight for freedom whenever and wherever human beings are shackled by totalitarian dictators. We must demand the immediate release of Héctor Fernando Maseda Gutierrez.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEANNE
POWER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jeanne Power, and thank her for the extraordinary contributions she has made to the community of Steamboat Springs and the State of Colorado. Jeanne has spent her life assisting others, and her dedication and selflessness is a shining example to all Americans.

After graduating from the University of Wyoming, Jeanne returned to her home in Steamboat Springs, where she became a member of

the Routt County Search and Rescue team. Later, she joined Steamboat Springs Ambulance as an Emergency Medical Technician. Five years ago, Jeanne found her true calling when she became the city's only female firefighter.

Jeanne now serves the City of Steamboat Springs as a paramedic and firefighter. In such a high-pressure career, she has managed to achieve a delicate balance between her fun-loving attitude and intense dedication to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I bring the life and spirit of an incredible woman to the attention of this body of Congress. Jeanne Power has dedicated her life to the betterment of others, and she is truly a tremendous asset to her city, state and country. Jeanne, I thank you for your service.

IN HONOR OF THE AILEYCAMP
AND KANSAS CITY FRIENDS OF
ALVIN AILEY RECEIVING THE
2003 COMING UP TALLER AWARD

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the AileyCamp of the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey as recipients of the 2003 Coming Up Taller Award. The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities presents this annual recognition to groups who encourage underserved youth to participate in the arts and humanities. The AileyCamp in Kansas City is one of 18 organizations to receive this prestigious distinction and \$10,000 to continue their philanthropic efforts to bring the art of dance to our community's urban youth.

I applaud the AileyCamp's undertakings to nurture a love for the arts and humanities in the next generation. The AileyCamp uses dance in varying techniques to develop skilled performers in ballet, jazz, tap, African dance, and other dance styles. This unique organization follows in the tradition of the accomplished dancer and choreographer, Alvin Ailey, who maintained an internationally acclaimed dance company and created 79 renowned ballets over his lifetime. His contribution to dance drew upon history, the blues and the gospel. Ailey envisioned an institution to instill appreciation for dance and culture especially for all young people.

Our community's children in the AileyCamp are immersed in a six week program offering training by top dance instructors, visual artists, and social workers for 11–14 year olds. These middle school students come from disadvantaged families and at-risk situations throughout Kansas City. AileyCamp provides a safe haven for creative activity where students develop their imagination through storytelling, writing, music, photography, and sculpture. These multi-discipline activities enhance and build upon their ability to express creatively, to analyze critically, and to foster academic excellence. Additionally, the campers take part in field trips and attend classes on conflict resolution, self-esteem, and goal setting.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the AileyCamp of Kansas City for this award. The AileyCamp is a tremendous organization performing in the spirit of the celebrated Alvin Ailey to broaden the horizons of our youth so that their artistic talents may bloom. I salute Ms. Cynthia Rider, Executive Director of Kansas City's AileyCamp and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey for their 2003 Coming Up Taller award.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D.
KESSELRING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Robert "Kess" Kesselring of Aspen, Colorado. Kess passed away recently after a courageous 10-year battle with prostate cancer. He was widely loved for his willingness to teach and help others. Because of his positive impact on the Aspen community, it is my privilege to honor the life and memory of Robert Kesselring.

Kess was born in Oakland, California in November of 1937. He graduated with a degree in finance from San Jose State University in 1959, where he was a member of the alpine ski team. Throughout his life, Kess was an avid outdoorsman, traveler and adventurer. He was an excellent sailor, and represented the United States in the 1973 Fireball World Sailing Championships.

Kess held many jobs and had many interests. Each related to his intense passion for serving others. Kess was a teacher, ski patrolman, ski instructor and fishing guide. In light of his love for flyfishing, Kess eventually moved to Aspen, the trout capital of Colorado. While in Aspen, Kess was a fishing guide on numerous rivers and lakes in Garfield and Pitkin Counties.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Kesselring was a friend to many, and a teacher who enhanced countless lives. He will long be remembered for his willingness to share his knowledge of the outdoors with others. To this day, one can find fly fishermen throughout the Roaring Fork Valley who owe their love of fly-fishing to Kess. He was a remarkable Coloradan who will truly be missed. It is my honor to pay tribute to him here today, and my thoughts go out to his family during this time of bereavement.

REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON U.S.-INDONESIAN RELATIONS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, recently, the National Commission on U.S.-Indonesian Relations released a report that focuses on how to create a long-term, strong relationship between the two nations, and why that is important for the United States.

The report, which was the work of a combined group of academics, former diplomats,

and business people took a year to research and write. Indonesia is an important country for the United States due to its strategic location in Asia and because much of the world's sea borne commerce passes through or next to Indonesian territory. It is active in forums, such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, where other key nations such as China, Japan and Korea are active. Finally, it is the world's fourth most populous nation and the world's largest Muslim nation.

Indonesia is also important for the United States because it is a democracy striving to strengthen itself in the face of growing Islamic fundamentalism. If the United States cannot help Indonesia move further down the path toward democracy, we stand little chance of helping other Muslim nations do the same, a goal that is so crucial in our global fight against terrorism.

The key finding of the Commission is a simple one—the United States and Indonesia can best help each other by creating a new partnership, one that the Commission calls a "Partnership for Human Resource Development." From the U.S. perspective, this means investing in Indonesian education, democracy building, economic growth and security.

I also believe the United States can play a critical role in helping Indonesia handle its massive urbanization trend and the infrastructure, health, and environmental challenges that result. There are now 50 cities in Indonesia with a population of at least 100,000, with eight of these cities in excess of a million residents.

Our relationship with Indonesia will continue to play a critical role in Southeast Asia and the world. The National Commission's report is worthy of our review and action. I commend the work of the Commission and I urge my colleagues to read the report. I ask that the Executive Summary of it be included with my remarks.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation and third largest democracy, is the pivotal state in Southeast Asia. It has exercised major influence in the region and plays an active and constructive international role. It has vast natural resources and is strategically located astride major lines of communication between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Half of the world's merchant fleet capacity passes through straits with Indonesian territory on one or both shores. Including its oil and mineral sectors, Indonesia is home to about \$25 billion in U.S. investment, with more than 300 major U.S. firms represented there.

Two additional factors are of particular importance today:

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population—more than all the Middle Eastern Arab states combined. The vast majority of Indonesia's Muslims have historically been noted for their moderation. There is one of the few Muslim majority nations in which Islam is not the state religion.

Given its size and importance, Indonesia is critical to stability in Southeast Asia. It has been the anchor of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and a key player in the ASEAN Regional Forum, the only organization in the Asia-Pacific region that brings the United States together with Japan, China, ASEAN and others to discuss security issues.

Today Indonesia faces major problems: a difficult transition from authoritarian rule to democracy; slow economic growth combined with inadequate job creation; capital

outflow; endemic corruption; ethnic and sectarian violence; a weak judiciary; and a serious threat from domestic and international terrorists. The October 12, 2002 bombings in Bali were the most grievous instance of terrorism since the September 2001 attacks on the United States. The carnage in Bali was a wake-up call for Indonesians and their government, and Indonesia joined the fight against terrorism. Local police arrested more than 90 suspected terrorists, but more are still at large as shown by the August 5, 2003 attack on the J. W. Marriott Hotel in the heart of the capital city Jakarta. Fourteen people (all but one were Indonesians) died as a result of that attack and 150 were injured.

There are continuing problems, but the news from Indonesia has not by any means been all bad. Since 1999 the country has had a free and fair national election and two peaceful presidential successions. Its media are among the most free in Southeast Asia. Civil society is flourishing, and more than 5,000 non-governmental organizations are active across a broad range of sectors. Constitutional reform and decentralization have made the government less top-down. For the first time, beginning in 2004, the president and vice president will be directly elected. In this process of reform, the leaders of major Muslim organizations have played a constructive role in defining relations between religion and the state. The ceasefire agreement in Aceh has failed, but those between hostile ethno-religious groups in the eastern islands are holding. And the Indonesian economy, despite its vulnerabilities, has stabilized in important respects.

The country is now at a critical juncture in its democratic transition and economic recovery. This is therefore an opportune time for the United States to rethink its approach to Indonesia. A failure of democracy there would hurt not only Indonesians. It would reinforce the stereotype that a Muslim-majority nation cannot manage a democratic system. Given the size and importance of Indonesia, we believe that success of that nation's democracy would not only provide a better life for its people but also reduce vulnerabilities to radicalism and have an impact beyond Indonesia's borders.

For these multiple reasons, the National Commission on U.S.-Indonesian Relations recommends that the United States and Indonesia enter into a "Partnership for Human Resource Development" in which the two nations pledge to work together on joint programs to promote in Indonesia an effective democracy, sustainable development, and the rule of law. The idea of a formal partnership is new to this important bilateral relationship. We believe this concept is essential to increase the prospects for success and to ensure that both nations buy into these programs and are committed to make them succeed. In other words, that both accept ownership.

Events in the coming five years, including national elections in 2004 and their consequences, will determine the fate of Indonesia's democracy and the nature of the new leadership generation expected to emerge before the following elections in 2009. Accordingly, we recommend that the United States pledge \$200 million annually in additional assistance funds to this partnership during this five-year period. The Commission believes that Indonesia would be a good candidate for funding under the Millennium Challenge Account. Whatever the source, it is important that these be add-on funds that do not disrupt important ongoing assistance programs.

These additional funds would be used to strengthen existing programs and initiate new programs in four critical fields:

1. Education—work with Indonesian officials to strengthen the nation's educational

system at all levels, including Islamic schools, and rebuild ties with U.S. educational institutions. Before the fall of Suharto, Indonesia's experience with democratic systems and practices was limited to a few years in the 1950s, so that most Indonesians living today have had no direct experience with democracy. As a result, Indonesia's democracy must be built from the ground up. A key prerequisite for success is an informed electorate. Education is the key to success and is also essential to give greater depth to the management level in virtually all sectors. We therefore attach special importance to education and urge prompt, large-scale U.S. support.

2. Democratization—improve governance, speed and deepen legal reform, strengthen parliament and the electoral system, and help ensure the effectiveness of decentralization.

3. Economic Growth—improve the investment climate, strengthen Indonesia's private sector, expand trade, facilitate the resumption of full debt servicing.

4. Security—strengthen the police and, when practicable, resume carefully crafted military education programs that will strengthen those elements willing to promote reform.

In addition to these funding priorities, ongoing U.S. assistance for emergency relief and improved health should be continued. Bolstering the ethical rationale for such support is the contribution it can make to reducing hardship and thus limiting the grievances that can be used to incite cycles of violence and repression.

Indonesia today offers a unique but temporary window of opportunity for the United States to help this nation of 230 million people build an effective democracy based on a civil society and a market economy under the rule of law. The time to rise to the occasion is now.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYNN WELDON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Lynn Weldon, who passed away recently at the age of 73. Lynn was a pillar of the Alamosa, Colorado community. As his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember his life and celebrate the work he did on behalf of others.

After graduating from high school, Lynn attended Central Missouri State University. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree, Lynn went on to complete his master's degree at the University of Kansas. Lynn then served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 during the Korean conflict. His service to the United States during a time of war is illustrative of his character. He was a man wholly devoted to his country, family, and friends. After returning from Korea, Lynn received his Doctorate of Education from the University of Kansas in 1957 and, in June of the same year, married Arvilla Pement.

In 1958, Lynn was offered a teaching job at Adams State College; it was there that he began a 40-year teaching career. Throughout his tenure at Adams State, Lynn taught a variety of subjects ranging from philosophy to the paranormal. He was also known for his ex-

traordinary dedication to community service. Lynn served on the Alamosa City Council for nearly 20 years, ministered with the Community Church of Christ, and performed with the San Luis Valley Mellow Tones. He was also instrumental in the movement to build a cultural center in Alamosa.

Mr. Speaker, Lynn's dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his contributions to the Alamosa and Colorado communities. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Lynn's family, friends, and former students during this difficult time.

NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize National Family Week and the importance of strong families to the future of our communities and our country.

The purpose of National Family Week, November 23–29, 2003, is to recognize that Connections Count when it comes to strengthening families and communities. Strong families are at the center of strong communities. Everyone has a role to play in making families successful, including neighborhood organizations, businesses, nonprofits, policymakers, and of course families themselves.

Families thrive when they are connected to the opportunities, networks, support, and services that enable them to succeed. This includes everyday access to high-quality transportation, technology, education, and child care; opportunities to build a solid financial foundation; and positive social relationships within and among families, as well as quality support from community networks and institutions.

National Family Week is a great time to honor the connections that support and strengthen families year-round. These connections can be as simple as the grandmother or the neighbor who watches the kids while parents work; the network of friends or the placement center that connects parents to a new job; the place of worship or neighborhood organization that connects the family to others in the community, the community leader or policymaker who rethinks, revamps, or redirects policies, practices, and resources to better benefit families, and the parents who listen to their children and always have time for a big hug.

For 33 years, the Alliance for Children and Families and its more than 350 nonprofit members have promoted National Family Week throughout the nation. Every day these child- and family- serving organizations make a difference for families of all shapes and sizes. This holiday season, for example, One Columbus, Inc. in Columbus, Georgia, is sponsoring a series of events to recognize families. Several of these events include a community breakfast, the awarding of family friendly business awards, a community family walk, and community-wide non-denominational church services.

National Family Week is a great time for all of us to recommit to enhancing and extending

all families' connections. As we gather with our families this Thanksgiving, let us remember the special connections that help our families thrive and encourage one another, our neighbors, our businesses, and our organizations to reach out to families in new ways and honor the special gifts each can bring to our communities and to one another.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOCTOR WALLACE S. HARTSFIELD ON HIS 37TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF METROPOLITAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise today to bring to your attention, and to the attention of the House, the outstanding work and commitment of Rev. Dr. Wallace Hartsfield for more than 50 years of preaching to church congregations, serving the last 37 years as pastor of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Reverend Hartsfield was born in Atlanta, Georgia, November 13, 1929. He was an only child, raised by his mother, Ruby Morrissatte. After a 3-year tour of duty in the United States Army, he attended Clark College in Atlanta and in 1954 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Clark College. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta in 1957. His first pastorate was at a Baptist church in Pickens, South Carolina.

Reverend Hartsfield is a former chairman of the Congress of National Black Churches, which represents 65,000 churches and 20 million members. Reverend Hartsfield is also the former chairman of the Economic Development Commission of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; second vice president of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; president of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of Operation PUSH; and an adjunct professor of the Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas. Reverend Hartsfield is married to Matilda Hopkins and on August 28 of this year they celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary. Reverend and Mrs. Hartsfield are the proud parents of four wonderful children: Pamela Faith, Danise Hope, Ruby Love, and Wallace S. Hartsfield II.

I have known Reverend Hartsfield over the years through his extensive involvement in the community. He has been a leader in many worthwhile causes and a wonderful role model for our city's youth and young adults.

His leadership was invaluable in redeveloping a blighted part of Kansas City when he led the Baptist Ministers' Union of Kansas City in their efforts to demolish the old St. Joseph's Hospital and replace it with a much needed new shopping center, the Linwood Shopping Center. Residents of the city's central core had to travel some distances to buy groceries, drop off dry cleaning, or to have a prescription filled before the new development became a reality. Reverend Hartsfield successfully led the charge to secure sufficient investment capital for the project when resources for new development in that area of the city were scarce.

He also was instrumental in the construction of a low income 60 unit housing development known as Metropolitan Homes, in that same geographical area. He was involved in faith based initiatives long before it was on the national agenda.

Reverend Hartsfield recently chaired the capital fund campaign to expand and update Kansas City's Swope Parkway Health Center, which provides invaluable assistance to many people who could not otherwise afford or have access to quality, state of the art health care. Millions of dollars were raised and the new health center stands as a testament to the untiring efforts of committed and dedicated people like Reverend Hartsfield.

Reverend Hartsfield has received numerous awards, among them the One Hundred Most Influential Award from the Kansas City Globe newspaper; the Greater Kansas City Image Award presented by the Urban League; the Minister of the Year Award from the Baptist Ministers Union of Kansas City; a Public Service Award from the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime; the Role Model for Youth Award from Penn Valley Community College and the Community Service Award from Kansas City, Missouri.

Additionally, he was named "One of the Top 50 Ministers in America," by Upscale magazine of Atlanta, GA and he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from both Western Baptist Bible College in Kansas City and also from the Virginia Seminary and College of Lynchburg, VA. Further, Reverend Hartsfield is a member of the board of directors for the national organization of Operation PUSH, and the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA, among others.

This weekend in Kansas City, we are celebrating Reverend Hartsfield's 37th anniversary as pastor at the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, and recognizing all of his critically important work and the leadership he has provided in the community for nearly four decades. Reverend Hartsfield loves people and he loves helping people. He has made a difference in the city he calls home, Kansas City, and we are proud to honor him as one of our outstanding citizens.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, the congregation of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, the family of Reverend Hartsfield, and the citizens of Kansas City, Missouri in congratulating Reverend Hartsfield on his 37 years of service to his church and many more years of service to his community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DUSTY SCHULZE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to Corporal Dusty Schulze of Craig, Colorado. Dusty is a police officer with the Craig Police Department, whose recent selflessness and courage in coming to the aid of his fellow Coloradans demonstrated tremendous heroism. I, along with the citizens of Colorado, am proud of Dusty's extraordinary valor. It is appropriate to pay tribute to his actions before this body of Congress and this Nation.

On September 17th of this year, Dusty responded to a fire in a Craig apartment building. Risking his own safety, Dusty entered the building directly below the fire to search for people stuck inside. When all of the tenants were out of the building, Dusty assisted the paramedics and firemen in administering medical care to the injured.

Dusty's courageous and altruistic acts were no surprise to those who know him well. Dusty is a natural born leader and a brave and caring police officer. His genuine concern for the citizens of Craig is unwavering, and his remarkable actions that September day did not go unnoticed. The Craig City Council recently awarded Dusty a Meritorious Commendation, one of the highest honors a Craig Police Officer can receive.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to rise and pay tribute to Dusty Schulze, a man whose actions are the very essence of all that makes this country great. It is in times of tragedy that true heroes emerge, and I am proud to say that Dusty Schulze is a hero, not only to those he saved, but also to his community, state and nation. It is with a great deal of pride that I stand to honor him today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POST OFFICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one reason I came to Congress is to make the federal government be a better partner to communities. One of the simplest ways to achieve that objective does not require new rules or regulations for local or state governments, and it does not require massive outlays of our budget driving us even deeper into deficit. The simplest answer is for the federal government to follow the same rules that all others must follow.

To this end, I am reintroducing the Post Office Community Partnership Act. This bill outlines minimum community contact procedures that the United States Postal Service must pursue for any proposed closing, consolidation, relocation, or construction of a post office. Simply put, the bill requires the Postal Service to comply with local zoning, planning, or other land use laws.

This legislation has had the bipartisan support of the majority of the House of Representatives. Once, it even passed the Senate only to become the victim of the politics of postal reform. In recent sessions there have been efforts at more comprehensive legislation that all include some variation of this bill as an enticement for passage. The pressure from our legislation has in fact encouraged some within the Postal Service to make significant progress. I've met with members of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service, the Postal Rate Commissioners, and the National League of Postmasters, and they have made progress. There are outstanding examples of where they have worked with the local community to make the post office an integral part of a downtown or main street.

It is time, however, to make this relationship something that every community can count on.

It is time to make this relationship part of the Postal Service's regular activities. It should not be an exception, it should not require luck or extraordinary political action, and there should be no variation in the commitment to providing the finest examples of being a part of each and every community.

There has been a recent report from the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service that is going to prompt more discussion and analysis of postal operations. Now is the time to act on this key element that is the most important single item that this Congress can do to guarantee the Postal Service is a better partner. Congress has the opportunity to set the tone for the Postal Service and federal government to become a full partner in the livability of our communities, leading by example so our families are safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM DIEHL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay tribute today to Jim Diehl of Craig, Colorado. Jim recently risked his life in order to assist members of the Craig police department in the evacuation of a burning apartment complex. It was in this time of dire emergency that Jim's gallantry shone through and he proved himself a true hero. I am proud to call Jim's extraordinary acts to the attention of this body of Congress.

On September 17, Jim found himself outside the flame-engulfed Alpine Apartment complex in Craig. Realizing lives were in danger, Jim ran into the burning building to search for people trapped inside. Throughout the fire, Jim ran from room to room removing tenants from harm's path. For his brave and selfless act, the Craig City Council awarded Jim a Citizen Commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to rise and pay tribute to a man whose actions are the very essence of all that makes this country great. Jim Diehl risked death in order to save the lives of fellow Americans. His acts are the embodiment of heroism and it is with a great deal of pride that I stand to honor him today.

FOAM FIRE SAFETY ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by three of my colleagues in introducing the "Foam Fire Safety Act" to reduce the injuries, deaths, and property damage that result from polyurethane foam fires. This sensible legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to implement a rule within one year that ensures that polyurethane foam products meet a new open flame standard. The new level of protection will decrease the destructiveness of fires in homes and buildings around the country and prevent unnecessary tragedies.

Polyurethane foam is found in mattresses, upholstered furniture, carpet padding, sound-

proofing insulation, and many other common objects. It is also one of the most flammable consumer products, and firefighters refer to polyurethane foam as "solid gasoline." Between 1980 and 1998, mattress, bedding, and upholstered furniture fires killed almost 30,000 people in the United States. During the same period, these fires injured more than 95,000 people.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) first began looking into creating stricter flame retardancy standards for foam in 1993. Ten years later, the process continues without results, and Americans are left without common sense standards similar to those already in place in California and Great Britain. My legislation requires foam to meet a new "open flame" test, which is equivalent to having a candle right next to the foam. Currently mattresses and furniture must only be able to withstand the equivalent of a lit cigarette.

Polyurethane foam serves as kindling for fires, and a stricter standard would prevent deaths and property damage. In my district, polyurethane soundproofing foam contributed to the deaths of 100 people at the Station nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island, on February 20, 2003. Because of the abundance of foam, the building was engulfed in flames within 3 minutes, and firefighters who were located just down the street could not arrive in time to save everyone.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the other co-sponsors of this bill to reduce the risk of polyurethane foam fires. Please co-sponsor this responsible measure, and help make American homes and workplaces safer.

NEW TOOLS NEEDED TO SUPPORT UROLOGIC HEALTH

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, each fall, the American Foundation for Urologic Diseases sponsors Prostate Health Month to remind people about the importance of maintaining good urologic health.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Week was held September 14–21 and urologists around the country offered free screenings for prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men. Encouraging reports indicate these cancers are being found at an earlier and more curable stage, resulting in a decline in prostate cancer death rates. Sadly, we also know that prostate cancer screening tests are not perfect and that the causes of other prostatic diseases, like prostatitis, still elude our full understanding.

This problem is not limited to prostate diseases. Many other urologic conditions, such as painful bladder disease and interstitial cystitis, require further research. No gender, age or ethnic group is immune to these diseases.

The key to addressing these and other challenges to good urologic health is more and better research. Of particular importance is research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Congress has doubled the NIH budget over the last five years, providing our best scientists new resources for attacking these problems. Given the widespread impact of urologic diseases, however, the basic science research effort continues to lag.

H.R. 1002, the Training and Research in Urology Act, was introduced to provide urologic scientists the tools they need to find new cures. It will create a Division of Urology at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the home of the urology basic science program, and expand existing research mechanisms, like the successful George O'Brien Urology Research Centers. This will give NIH new opportunities for investment in efforts to combat and vanquish these diseases.

Millions of men and women are afflicted by these diseases. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of H.R. 1002.

TRIBUTE TO MANUAL HERNANDEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to Manual Hernandez of Grand Junction, Colorado. Manual's selfless and courageous acts demonstrated tremendous heroism when he came to the aid of a fellow Coloradan. I am proud of Manual's extraordinary valor, and believe it appropriate to pay tribute to his actions before this body of Congress and this nation.

While eating breakfast in a Grand Junction restaurant, Manual heard a cry for help. Without hesitation, he rose to his feet and went to the rescue. Outside, Manual found an eight-year-old girl trapped beneath the tire of a car. He quickly recruited two additional men to help lift the vehicle. The men, fueled by a desire to save the young girl, raised the vehicle with Herculean strength and pulled her to safety. She is now recovering in a Grand Junction hospital.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise before this body of Congress and this country, to pay tribute to Manual Hernandez, a humble and remarkable human being who risked his own life to save another. I join my colleagues in thanking Manual for his tremendous act of heroism.

TRIBUTE TO PERKINS T. SHELTON

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Perkins T. Shelton, a relentless fighter for equal rights and equal representation.

Perkins Shelton came to St. Petersburg thirty years ago and was a driving force in our community ever since. A leader in the St. Petersburg branch of the NAACP, he was elected secretary of the branch at the age of 88. Mr. Shelton was a mentor to numerous black leaders in the community and was a constant voice encouraging blacks to become active in the political process.

Most notably, Perkins Shelton left an indelible mark on our voting system. After successfully fighting to replace Florida's multi-member legislative districts with single-member districts, Mr. Shelton worked to obtain equal representation in Pinellas County. A driving force

for fair representation for all voters, Mr. Shelton was a leader in securing four single-member district representatives on the Pinellas County Commission.

An advocate of continuing education, Mr. Shelton went back to school to become a paralegal, specializing in elder law. Working for Gulf Coast Legal Services, he fought discrimination against the elderly. Mr. Shelton never gave up the fight—he was even writing letters on behalf of the St. Petersburg Commission on Aging at age 91.

Mr. Shelton was a Walter Mondale delegate to the 1984 Democratic National Convention. He served on the Environmental Development Commission, Housing Authority and Fair Housing Board and was a chairman of the legislative committee of the St. Petersburg Council on Human Relations. In 1988, the City of St. Petersburg gave Mr. Shelton a Senior Hall of Fame Award in honor of all his contributions to our community.

St. Petersburg is undoubtedly a better place to live thanks to Perkins Shelton. On behalf of our community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Shelton's family. His impact will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND MASTER
CHIEF ROBERT CONKLIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an American hero. Command Master Chief Robert Conklin stands as a fine example of our fighting men and women of the Armed Services who have dedicated their lives to protecting their nation and their fellow citizens. Master Chief Conklin has given thirty-four years of service to his country, and I am honored to pay tribute to his accomplishments here today.

Robert Conklin enlisted in the Navy in 1969, and has accomplished a long and distinguished career. He has served as Command Master Chief, the highest rank for an enlisted man, on the USS *Conolly*, the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, and the USS *Bataan*, and currently serves aboard the USS *Ronald Reagan*. Through his service, Master Chief Conklin has earned numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, Command Master Chief Robert Conklin is the kind of dedicated and devoted serviceman who young recruits look to for guidance and encouragement. He has enjoyed a stellar career, and has earned the admiration of his fellow shipmates, as well as the respect of the citizens of the country he has committed his life to serving. I am deeply honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing the tireless work and dedicated service of Master Chief Robert Conklin here today.

VERNON CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the members of Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church of Flint, Michigan, to congratulate them on their successful completion of a \$2 million expansion/renovation project. The church will hold a dedication ceremony to celebrate this blessed achievement on Sunday, November 9, 2003. Bishop Philip R. Cousin, the Presiding Bishop of the Fourth District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, will be the guest preacher and will preside over the dedication.

The expansion of Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church started with a vision 10 years ago and now that vision has come to life. Proverbs 29:18 states that "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Vernon Chapel A.M.E. church is definitely alive, and growing by leaps and bounds. One proof of that growth is their newly constructed 8,700 square-foot family life center. The church and community will utilize the facility for wedding receptions, recreation events and banquets. Inside the church, seven new classrooms were added along with four offices, an elevator, and six restrooms. They have also added a day care and health care site. The church's purpose in starting this project was to give back to the community. They saw a need and they fulfilled it. With the newly expanded facility, the church will be able to spread the Gospel to more people in different ways. Reverend Darryl Williams, Pastor of Vernon Chapel for 13 years, stated to me that completion of this project is a testament to their faith, their progressive attitude and their desire to serve the people of Flint and Genesee County in a greater capacity. The members of Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church are beyond doubt dedicated to the work of the Lord.

Mr. Speaker many people in Genesee County have greatly benefited from Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church outreach. This church consistently thrives to make the community a better place to live and worship. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating this fine Christian community on a job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
"SARGE" BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. William "Sarge" Brown of Grand Junction, Colorado is an active member of the skiing community and a great citizen. For his years of hard work and many contributions to Colorado's ski industry and his local community, I am honored to pay tribute to Sarge here today.

Like many of his generation, Sarge heeded his country's call, serving in the Army during World War II and the Korean War. At the end

of the Korean War, Sarge directed a mountain and winter warfare program for Dartmouth College's Reserve Officer Training Corps. He retired from the military in 1966 as a Sergeant Major, and began work at Vail Mountain where he worked his way up the ranks to become Mountain Manager. While at Vail, Sarge worked to help make the resort the world-class destination that it is today. Sarge retired from Vail in 1989, and was inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame in 1990. Today, Sarge remains active in the skiing community by serving on the board of the Powderhorn Recreation and Development Company.

Mr. Speaker, William "Sarge" Brown has dedicated many years to serving his country and his community, first in the Army, and then as Mountain Manager at one of Colorado's most beloved ski resorts. His hard work and contributions to his community are an inspiration, and I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing the work of William "Sarge" Brown here today.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE-
FENSE AND FOR THE RECON-
STRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AF-
GHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I will reluctantly support this Iraq Supplemental Appropriations bill conference report for our troops and their families.

I will support this bill because we must support our troops and we must continue to engage the effort in Iraq to its successful conclusion. I have the honor of representing the Army's Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base and many Guard and Reserve units in North Carolina. Many of them are serving in Iraq while their families here at home pray for their safety and speedy return. This bill increases funds to purchase body armor for our troops and to contract for the clearing of unexploded ordnance. The bill provides funding for the contracting of security guards to replace reservists currently performing these duties. The Army has indicated this provision would permit the demobilization of 7,000 to 10,000 reserve component soldiers. The bill also includes a provision to continue the increased monthly rate of hazardous duty pay and Family Separation Allowances through September 30, 2004. These provisions are very important to the military families in my district because they have a very real impact in relieving some of their financial burden. I am proud my Democratic colleagues in the House and I have successfully led the fight to secure these needed funds.

I have serious reservations about this vote because despite the brilliant and valiant action of our soldiers to defeat the evil regime of

Saddam Hussein, this administration has failed to implement an adequate plan to win the peace. This Administration has failed to level with the American people and the Congress about the true costs and duration of the ongoing war in Iraq. The American people and their Representatives in Congress deserve true and honest presentation of the facts, especially on such weighty matters of war and peace. Before the Administration comes back to Congress with another request for more funds, I want to see an honest assessment of the duration and costs of the operations in Iraq and a realistic plan for a lasting peace in that troubled region of the world.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would prefer that the House could act on amendments to address this conference report's shortcomings, but we were not given that option. Despite my reservations, I will support this bill because it is the best option we have before us to win the peace in Iraq. I will support this bill on behalf of the people of North Carolina's Second Congressional District and the men and women in our armed forces.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRE
CAPTAIN FRANK NEMICK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Fire Captain Frank Nemick recently announced his retirement from the Pueblo Fire Department. For his selfless dedication and many years of service, I am honored to pay tribute to Frank here today.

From the time he was a young boy, Frank always wanted to be a firefighter. He joined the Pueblo fire department in 1964 and served at Station 4 in Bessemer. Over the years, he worked hard and quickly advanced up the ranks. Frank has dedicated his life to helping the citizens of the Pueblo community. Whenever someone was in trouble or in need of assistance, Frank was always ready to come to their rescue. His enthusiasm and dedication are infectious, and he has influenced several members of his family to follow him into a career as a firefighter.

Mr. Speaker, for thirty-nine years Frank Nemick selflessly served his community and his neighbors, and he will retire as a Captain from Station 10 at Pueblo Memorial Airport. His hard work and dedication are truly an inspiration. As he prepares for his retirement, I am honored to join with my colleagues in thanking Frank for all his hard work and in wishing him all the best in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 2003 DALLAS
VETERANS DAY PARADE AND
PARADE GRAND MARSHALL HON.
SAM JOHNSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2003 Dallas Veterans Day Parade

and the Parade Grand Marshall, our friend and colleague Congressman SAM JOHNSON (Texas-3rd). We are honored to be here alongside our proud veterans and their caring supportive families who have made their country proud time and time again. It is important to recognize our veterans today. However, veterans should be honored everyday for their selfless sacrifices, not just simply only on Veterans Day.

The 2003 parade will pay special tribute to the 30th Anniversary of the return of Prisoners of War from Vietnam. Dallas CAN! Academy has prepared a special float in honor of these Vietnam POWs. In addition to the return of the Vietnam POWs, the 100th Year of Flight and the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War are also given special recognition in the parade.

The 2003 Dallas Veterans Day Parade is also proud to welcome home and honor our nation's latest veterans. Today we pay tribute to many of the fine men and women that served in combat during military Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and that have safely returned home. During this critical and turbulent time for our world, we continue to pray and ask for the blessings of our servicemen and woman who are currently serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and throughout the rest of the world in service to our beloved nation.

We would like to congratulate our colleague Congressman SAM JOHNSON for serving as the Parade Grand Marshall for this outstanding annual Dallas tradition. Honoring a great American hero like Congressman SAM JOHNSON is especially appropriate with the Parade's special tribute to the 30th Anniversary of the return of our POWs from Vietnam. Congressman JOHNSON, after graduating from Southern Methodist University, began his 29 year career with the United States Air Force. Our colleague flew 62 combat missions during the war in Korea and was shot down on his 25th sortie during Vietnam. Sam was captured and held as a prisoner of war for over 7 years, with half of this time being spent in solitary confinement. His courage and strength serves as an inspiration to our veterans and current servicemen and woman, and we are proud to serve with him today in the House.

The Parade's military keynote speaker, Lieutenant General Thomas P. Stafford is a veteran astronaut and we are delighted to hear his remarks. General Stafford went into space on two Gemini missions and later commanded Apollo Ten. General Stafford served as the U.S. Commander for the Apollo-Soyuz rendezvous in 1975.

We would like to thank one of our favorite native sons for being with us here today for the Parade, General T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley, Vice Chief of Staff for the United States Air Force. General Moseley is a loyal Aggie alum, having served in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M. He is a distinguished officer and aviator, and is a true leader for the Air Force.

We appreciate the assistance of current military units that will be participating in the parade all of the local business and community leaders for their financial support. Thank you Congressman JOHNSON for your service to America, and God Bless our current men and women in uniform and all those that have preceded them in service to the country.

NATIONAL CEMETERY EXPANSION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1516—because it keeps a commitment, a sacred commitment to the men and women of our military.

As a country we honor our veterans for their service, their commitment, their sacrifice.

Our veterans did not serve to become heroes. They did not fight because they enjoyed battle. They went to war because this country asked them to go to war. They served to defend our freedom.

This supreme dedication deserves supreme recognition.

Mr. Speaker, Florida has almost 2 million veterans and only four veterans cemeteries. One is full. One only accepts cremated remains. The other two are at least half a state away from my district. This leaves no option for Northeast Floridians who served without question.

Veterans want this cemetery. Veterans need this cemetery. Veterans deserve this cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased this House is acting.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HUGH
THACKABERRY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise and pay tribute today to a remarkable man from my district. Hugh Thackaberry of Fruita, Colorado, a fine man and devoted citizen, was wounded many years ago in service to our nation. I am proud today to bring his valor, courage, and patriotism to the attention of my colleagues here today.

Hugh was a squad leader in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division during the Korean War. In May of 1953, Hugh was injured in battle in North Korea's Chorwon Valley. After being removed from the battlefield, Hugh was transported to a mobile field hospital. At one point during Hugh's recovery, the hospital was overcome with American casualties. Although injured, Hugh selflessly climbed from his bed to render aid to his fallen countrymen. This action epitomizes the integrity and self-sacrifice that defined Hugh's service to his country. For his bravery, Hugh was awarded the "Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal" by the government of South Korea.

Recently, the United States awarded Hugh the Purple Heart, recognizing his many sacrifices for his country. I am proud to have the privilege of presenting him that medal for his honorable service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise and pay tribute to the heroism of Hugh Thackaberry. His personal sacrifice and patriotism are an illustration of the spirit of a great American. I am extremely proud and honored to recognize

a national Hero. Thanks Hugh for your service.

REAUTHORIZING CERTAIN SCHOOL LUNCH AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR FY 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, as the House takes action to extend authorization of School Lunch and Child Nutrition Programs, I wish to take this opportunity to raise an important issue relating to achieving greater nutritional benefits for the children of this nation.

Today we face a continuing challenge in improving the quality of the American diet, particularly among our nation's children as we see an alarming increase in obesity that leads to coronary heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. As Congress considers comprehensive reform of School Lunch and Child Nutri-

tion Programs in the near future, it is imperative that federal nutrition services provide the fundamental tools to promote lasting health through sound nutritional choices.

The U.S. Surgeon General reports that fruit, juice and vegetable consumption are a central part of a commitment toward better health and provide protective effects from most cancers, heart disease and obesity. Unfortunately, most children and adults do not meet the recommended guidelines of five servings a day of fruit and vegetables, with only 15 percent of elementary students and a quarter of adults consuming the recommended requirement. Unbelievably, one of our major nutrition programs, the Women's, Infants and Children's (WIC) program, does not even allow participants access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Healthy America Act (H.R. 2592), bipartisan nutrition legislation that I have sponsored, is aimed at promoting better health and the prevention of chronic diseases by expanding and enhancing policies that encourage the consumption of fruits, vegetables and juices in schools and in the WIC program. Particularly among needy Americans, school feeding and other nutrition programs often provide the pri-

mary opportunities for consumption of nutritionally valuable foods. This legislation would provide students and WIC participant's greater access to fruits, vegetables, and juices in federal feeding programs and expand the extremely successful Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program nationwide.

Current federal nutrition guidelines also must be revised so that they are consistent with current dietary and nutritional science for some of the neediest Americans, including expectant and nursing mothers, infants and children. The WIC program is nearly 30 years old and has changed little during that time. The Healthy America Act would require that dietary guidelines be revised regularly in keeping with modern dietary science and allow WIC participants access to fresh fruits and vegetables currently prohibited under the program.

As Congress continues to consider long-term reauthorization of Child Nutrition and School Lunch Programs in the coming year, I urge adoption of these critical provisions in the Healthy America Act to give the children of this nation the access to nutritional benefits they deserve.