

and vibrant young woman whose life was tragically taken on July 31, 2002 in the terrorist attack in the cafeteria at Hebrew University Mt. Scopus campus in Jerusalem.

Marla was a 24-year-old recent graduate of the University of California at Berkeley who was studying to obtain her masters' degree at Hebrew University. She was also training at the Pardes Institute to become a Jewish educator.

Marla was well-known to the Jewish community at Berkeley and was a familiar face at countless organizations, including Hillel and Bayit, the Jewish student cooperative of UC Berkeley.

Marla grew up at Camp JCA Shalom as a camper, counselor-in-training, counselor, unit head and, during the summer of 2001, the program director. During her time at Camp JCA Shalom, she touched the lives of thousands of campers and staff.

Her infectious personality and compassion for others will be memorialized in the Marla Bennett Israel Discovery Center and Garden this weekend. The Center is an interactive hands-on learning center that teaches about the land, history and people of Israel; the flora and fauna of modern and ancient Israel; the relationship between Judaism and the environment; environmental awareness and protection; Jewish traditions, thoughts and values; and organic gardening and farming.

During the summer, thousands of Camp JCA Shalom campers ages seven through 17 will have the opportunity to experience the Marla Bennett Israel Discovery Center and Garden. Throughout the year, the Center will be open to the community for field trips, weekend retreats and long-term educational studies.

The Marla Bennett Israel Discovery Center and Garden is housed at the Shalom Institute Camp and Conference Center. Nestled in a beautiful wooded canyon in the Malibu Mountains and only 45 minutes from downtown Los Angeles, the Shalom Institute provides campers of all ages positive Jewish experiences, a greater appreciation for the environment and lots of fun activities. From children to seniors, the Shalom Institute offers exciting programs throughout the year for campers of all ages.

The Marla Bennett Israel Discovery Center and Garden will be a welcome addition to the Shalom Institute and will serve to keep Marla's exuberant spirit and memory alive. I ask my colleagues to join me in the dedication of the Marla Bennett Israel Discovery Center and Garden.

ST. JOHNS RIVER VETERANS
MEMORIAL BRIDGE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, May 31, 2004 a ceremony was held in Central Florida in commemoration of naming the new Interstate 4 bridge connecting Volusia and Seminole Counties as the "St. Johns River Veterans Memorial Bridge".

The designation of this structure, a principal transportation link, was made possible by action of the Florida Legislature; by an Act signed into law by Governor Jeb Bush on May

13, 2004; and by resolutions adopted by the Seminole County Commission and the Volusia County Council.

While it was my privilege to recommend naming the bridge in honor of all veterans who have served our Nation, I would like to express my appreciation—and that of all Florida veterans and citizens—to those State and local leaders who made this tribute to our veterans and special designation possible:

Governor Jeb Bush.

Members of the Florida Senate representing Seminole and Volusia Counties—Sen. Evelyn J. Lynn, Chair of the Volusia County Legislative Delegation; Sen. Lee Constantine; Sen. Anna P. Cowin; Sen. Anthony C. "Tony" Hill, Sr.; Sen. James E. "Jim" King, Jr.; Sen. Bill Posey; and Sen. Daniel Webster.

Members of the Florida House of Representatives representing Seminole and Volusia Counties—Rep. David Simmons, Chair of the Seminole County Legislative Delegation; Rep. Sandra "Sandy" Adams; Rep. Carey Baker; Rep. Joyce Cusack; Rep. Suzanne M. Kosmas; Rep. David J. Mealor; Rep. Pat Patterson; and Rep. Joe H. Pickens.

The Seminole County Commission—Chairman Daryl G. McLain and Commissioners Carlton D. Henley; Grant Maloy; Randall C. Morris and Dick Van Der Weide.

The Volusia County Council—Chairman Dwight Lewis and Council Members Joie Alexander; Frank Bruno, Jr.; Jack Hayman; Joe Jaynes; Bill Long and Patricia Northey.

Furthermore, I would like to recognize four families who lost loved ones in service to our Nation and who participated in the Memorial Day dedication ceremony. These eight individuals represented many other families and Americans who have made similar, great sacrifices:

Jesse and Arbutus Beall. Their son, Specialist 4 Charles Richard Beall, was killed in action in Kontum, South Vietnam on March 6, 1968 while serving in the United States Army.

Jim and Sandy Wetmore. Their son, Airman 1st Class Brian William McVeigh of the United States Air Force, was killed in a terrorist attack on the Khobar Towers Military Complex in Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996.

Mrs. Jill Roberts and her son, Jacob. Jill's husband and Jacob's father, Corporal Robert D. Roberts of the United States Army, died on November 22, 2003 while serving in Baghdad, Iraq.

Mrs. Minna Earnest and her son, Brian. Minna's husband and Brian's father, Commander Charles M. Earnest of the United States Navy, perished at sea during combat operations in North Vietnam on November 28, 1972, and Minna's son and Brian's brother, Charles Bradley Earnest, a member of the United States Army Special Forces, died on August 21, 1999 from injuries previously sustained during combat training.

Each day in Central Florida as tens of thousands of travelers cross the St. Johns River Veterans Memorial Bridge, they will be reminded of the price these and thousands of other veterans and their families have paid for the freedoms all Americans enjoy.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND
HEALTH SMALL EMPLOYER AC-
CESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation. The bills before us today do not merely amend or modernize the historic Occupational Safety and Health Act, which put in place critical workplace protections—rather, they undermine it.

One discourages OSHA from citing small employers who would otherwise be in violation of the law, while another weakens the ability of the Secretary of Labor to enforce those laws. Another allows this Administration to stack the OSHA commission for political purposes, while the last gives employers more leeway in challenging OSHA citations.

In every sense, these are blatantly anti-employee changes to existing law, intended to take power away from average working people and put it in the hands of employers in the hope that they will not abuse that power. All of this is being done under the guise of "reducing red tape."

But I suppose we should not be surprised. After all, this is merely another in a long line of anti-employee acts taken by this Administration and majority. First it was throwing out a decade of research that went into those carefully crafted ergonomics regulations—in a day, Republicans sent the American people a clear message that the corporate bottom line was more important than safety in the workplace. Then it was ramming through overtime rules that took away time-and-a-half pay for 8 million workers and endorsing the outsourcing of American jobs to other countries. Now they decimate a historic law to protect American workers from unsafe working conditions.

The American people are increasingly finding themselves at odds with this Administration and its reckless disregard for working people—and it is no wonder. To them, regulations that protect people in the workplace are, quote, "red tape."

Mr. Speaker, tell that to families of the 60,000 employees who die every year from job-related injuries or illnesses. Tell that to the 4.7 million people who are injured each year at work. Because legislation like this not only insults the work the people of this country do everyday—it reveals a total lack of appreciation for the people, the institutions and the values that built this country and made it great. Oppose these unfair, un-American bills.

CONGRATULATING BRUCE V.
RAUNER OF CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Bruce V. Rauner of Chicago and the Rauner Family Foundation for being honored by the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago, which is awarding Bruce with its prestigious Humanitarian Award at the

Second Annual Hometown Heroes Awards breakfast.

The Chicago Red Cross Hometown Heroes Awards are presented to individuals "whose actions went beyond the call of duty, and whose leadership and commitment made a significant difference to a person, cause or community." This year's special Humanitarian Award is being awarded for the "critical support" provided by Mr. Rauner and the Rauner Family Foundation "for Chicago's education, health and youth development organizations." I applaud the Red Cross for its excellent selection of Bruce Rauner, one of Chicago's finest citizens, and a shining example of leadership and commitment to public service in our city.

Bruce Rauner's philanthropy benefits the entire Chicagoland area. In addition to supporting the Red Cross, Mr. Rauner has dedicated his time and resources to many other local non-profit organizations. Among them include his service on the board of The Chicago Public Education Fund, The Teacher's Academy of Mathematics and Science, The Ravinia Festival, The Golden Apple Foundation, The Academy for Urban School Leadership and the YMCA. The Rauner Family Foundation has also made generous contributions, to the YMCA of Metro Chicago and Pilsen, and the Chicago Public Education Fund.

Earlier this year, the Rauner Family Foundation donated \$3 million for the construction of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago's new state-of-the-art command center, which is designed to enhance disaster response capabilities for the entire state of Illinois. The new Rauner Center houses local Red Cross offices and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to coordinate response in the event of a major disaster. The Rauner Foundation's generous contribution will go a long way toward helping establish this center as the model for the country of effective and life-saving disaster response.

Professionally, Mr. Rauner continues to be one of the leaders of Chicago's financial center. He currently serves as the Chairman of GTCR Golder Rauner, LLC, a \$6 billion private equity and venture capitol firm in Chicago. Mr. Rauner joined GTCR in 1981 after working in strategic consulting with Bain and Company and in econometric analysis with Data Resources, Inc.

Before his impressive career was launched, Mr. Rauner graduated with top honors—from Dartmouth College Summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa and from Harvard Business School. He and his wife Diana live in Winnetka and are the parents of Elizabeth, Stephanie, Eric, Margaret, Matthew, and Katherine.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I am privileged to congratulate Bruce V. Rauner and the Rauner Family Foundation for this impressive honor, and I applaud the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago for bestowing this celebrated award on such deserving recipients.

ON THE OCCASION OF MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day we pay tribute to those who have given their lives in defense of our great Nation. The freedoms we enjoy here at home do not come cheap. They are paid for with the blood and treasure of true American heroes.

Today we reaffirm our commitment to the liberties they fought to defend. And we pledge never to forget their sacrifice.

This year, Memorial Day has a special poignancy. Here in Washington, veterans of the Second World War finally received the monument they so richly deserved. The World War Two Memorial dedicated on the National Mall provides a fitting tribute to a generation of young men and women who defended the United States against the specter of a tyranny as horrible as any the world has known. The 400,000 Americans who gave their lives in the European and Pacific theaters will never be forgotten.

In addition, this Memorial Day is special because it affords us an opportunity to honor the young men and women who are currently engaged in the War on Terror. Halfway around the world, a new generation has been called to battle. And like those that defeated our enemies in the 1940s, this new generation of Americans has faced the enemy with strength and determination. Almost 1,000 men and women have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those of us who enjoy the freedom they have sacrificed to defend should be immensely proud and eternally grateful.

This weekend, as we take a moment away from our normal routines, let us say a prayer and remember both those who have gone before us and those who continue to defend freedom from oppression. Our thoughts should be with those families that have lost loved ones in battle. And our thanks should go to all those who honor us by taking up arms to defend the United States.

God bless our men and women in uniform. And God Bless America.

STATEMENT OF ERIC ROSENTHAL, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES (USCID) AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MENTAL DISABILITY RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL, ON "INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS: THE PROPOSED UN CONVENTION"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 30th, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a groundbreaking Members' Briefing entitled, "International Disability Rights: The Proposed UN Convention." This discussion of the global situation of people with disabilities was intended to help establish disability rights issues

as an integral part of the general human rights discourse. The briefing brought together the human rights community and the disability rights community, and it raised awareness in Congress of the need to protect disability rights under international law to the same extent as other human rights through a binding UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Our expert witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark P. Lagon; the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ambassador Luis Gallegos; the United Nations Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Johan Schölvinck; the distinguished former Attorney General of the United States, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and former Governor of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Dick Thornburgh; the President of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), Alan A. Reich; Kathy Martinez, a member of the National Council on Disabilities (NCD); and a representative of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USCID) and Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International, Eric Rosenthal.

As I had announced earlier, I intend to place the important statements of our witnesses in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that all of my colleagues may profit from their expertise, and I ask that the statement of Eric Rosenthal be placed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS: MEMBERS' BRIEFING ON THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

It is a great pleasure to be here for this historic occasion. I would like to thank Representative Lantos, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and the Disability Rights Caucus for making this possible.

I'm a member of the board of the U.S. International Council on Disability (USCID) and executive director of Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI). I have spent more than ten years in the field doing international human rights work for people with disabilities—documenting human rights abuses and training activists. There has been little recognition of the vast worldwide pattern of human rights abuses against people with disabilities that exists in the world today—either by the U.S. government or the United Nations. Thus, it is a great step forward to bring these concerns to public attention today. This hearing provides an invaluable opportunity to discuss what practical next steps the U.S. Government can take to bring long over-due attention to the rights of people with disabilities worldwide.

The most important leadership by a U.S. Agency, to date, has been the work of the U.S. National Council on Disability (NCD). Over the last few years, NCD has made an invaluable contribution to advancing discussion and action on international disability issues by convening International Watch, a group of experts and leaders in the U.S. disability community involved in international activities. In addition, NCD has brought attention to this issue by commissioning two important reports. In 2002, NCD commissioned Janet Lord of the Landmine Survivors Network to write a detailed legal and policy analysis of the need for a new UN disability rights convention. I recommend that report as essential background to today's discussion about the need for a UN convention.