

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMERICA, RAY CHARLES STYLE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. William Raspberry on his column in the Washington Post on July 5, 2004. Mr. Raspberry described well the importance of the life and music of Mr. Ray Charles. The way Ray Charles embraced the wonderful qualities of the United States is extremely important for many African-Americans who grew up in segregated America. As Mr. Raspberry stated, many African-Americans feel like outsiders in this country, but Mr. Charles was able to embrace and celebrate the presence of brotherhood and justice as fundamental American values. The music of Ray Charles transcended barriers between black and white. His life and music will never be forgotten. I applaud Mr. Raspberry for reminding his readers of the impact this great man had on so many. I hope that my colleagues join me in honoring Ray Charles by supporting the bill I introduced, H.R. 4633, which authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to create a gold medal honoring this great American performer.

[From the Washington Post, July 5, 2004]

AMERICA, RAY CHARLES STYLE

(By William Raspberry)

I'll know that today is the "Fourth of July" (no matter what the calendar insists) when I hear my friend's stereo pulsing out "America the Beautiful."

The Ray Charles version, of course.

Charles's recent death, at 73, brings it to mind, but I've been aware for some years now how his prayerful exaltation of America has become the virtual theme song of the Fourth of July. What did Americans have for a theme song before that? Was it all Sousa marches, with hot dogs and applause-line oratory?

Charles transformed the holiday for me—the Norman Rockwell tableaux that never seemed to include anyone who looked like me—to a holiday for all Americans.

And how did he manage that?

Maybe I should start with what may be my one important insight: that in most controversies, thoughtful people secretly believe both sides, espousing the one and suppressing the other depending on the company it puts them in. That is why it is so hard to find white Southerners of my approximate age who will admit to having been racists back in the days of Jim Crow.

What they recall, I believe, is that they harbored misgivings about the way things were, and now they find it more comfortable to recall the misgivings than their toleration of the way things were. I always believed that segregation was wrong. . . . And they did.

I have harbored similar misgivings about the willingness of black Americans to think of this country as someone else's house—and to view it as complaining outsiders looking in. Of course there has always been ample basis for black people to feel like outsiders, at the very least to internalize W.E.B.

DuBois's sense of the "twoness" of being black in America. But didn't we, perhaps, overdo the outsider-ness?

You see, I always cherished America—even if I acknowledged it only as the too-seldom played B-side of my consciousness. Charles's "America" invited me to turn the record over.

Charles could do that. He had a way of cutting through the confusions and mixed emotions and preconceptions, and reaching us at our core. The genius that made it possible for him to universalize the blues and spirituals and country—anything he touched—made it possible for him to universalize patriotism, too.

But if Ray Charles changed the Fourth of July with his "America the Beautiful," he also changed the song. "God done shed His grace on thee! He crowned thy good, yes he did, in a brotherhood."

The shift isn't merely from Katharine Lee Bates's elegant lyric to the black vernacular; it is a shift in meaning.

As Kenneth Moynihan noted in a recent commentary in the Worcester (Mass.) Telegram & Gazette, Bates penned a prayer: "[May] God shed his grace on thee and crown thy good with brotherhood." Ray made it a fait accompli.

As Moynihan put it, "A fervent hope for the future has been turned into a happy fact of the present."

It is not, Moynihan argues, an improvement.

"People much prefer to believe in their own righteousness and that of the nation than to think about their failings," he wrote. "No doubt the passionate affirmation of American brotherhood as a divine dispensation already granted accounts for a healthy share of the popularity of Mr. Charles's rather radical modification of the song."

He's right, of course. And maybe he'd be right to remind those white Southerners I talk to that they really did used to be racists. Sometimes, though, I think it's not a bad idea to let people believe that their nobler instinct represents their "true" self—that it is their greed, their envy and their bigotry that are the aberration. You know: "As a man believeth in his heart, so he is."

At least for this day, can't we imagine that we are brothers (and sisters) "from sea to shining sea"? And be grateful for that?

Ray Charles says it's all right.

**PUNJAB GOVERNMENT CANCELS DEAL THAT ALLOWED DIVERSION OF WATER TO OTHER STATES**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly of Punjab recently annulled a long-standing agreement that allowed the diversion of water from Punjab to other states.

According to the Tribune of Chandigarh, whose article I will be inserting in the RECORD at the end of my remarks, the Legislative Assembly asserted the sovereignty of Punjab in

doing so. The newspaper reports that the bill passed by the Legislative Assembly says that "as a sovereign authority [Punjab] considered it its duty to uphold the Constitution and the laws and to protect the interests of its inhabitants."

Apparently, all parties supported this measure. We congratulate them on taking this step forward to protect the interests of the people of Punjab. I urge them to continue claiming, promoting, and establishing the sovereignty of Punjab.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the people of Punjab have been severely oppressed by the tyrannical Indian government. Over a quarter of a million Sikhs have been killed since 1984, according to the Punjab State Magistracy. The Movement Against State Repression reports that 52,268 have been taken as political prisoners, held without charge or trial, some as long as 20 years. According to the Punjab Human Rights Commission, about 50,000 Sikhs have simply been made to disappear by being arrested, tortured, killed in police custody, declared "unidentified bodies," and secretly cremated, without their remains even being given back to their families.

Similar repression has been visited on Christians, Muslims, and other minorities. Yet India continues to say that it is the world's largest democracy.

If India is truly a democracy, it will allow the will of the people to be carried out in regards to the diversion of water. It will allow the people—Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and everyone living under Indian rule—to enjoy the full range of human rights. And it will allow self-determination for these sovereign states.

Until that happens, Mr. Speaker, we should not provide any aid to India. And we should take a stand for self-determination, which is the cornerstone of democracy, by supporting a free and fair plebiscite on independence in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in predominantly Christian Nagaland, and everywhere that people seek their freedom from Indian rule. The assertion of sovereignty by the Punjab Legislative Assembly is a good first step. They should act to claim their sovereignty by severing their ties to India. We should take a stand by letting them know that when they do, we will be there with them.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, I would like to insert the Tribune article into the RECORD at this time.

PUNJAB ANNULS ALL WATER PACTS, CONG. AKALIS JOIN HANDS ON ISSUE

Chandigarh, July 12—A special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha today unanimously passed the Punjab Termination of Agreements Bill, 2004, thereby "knocking down" the very basis on which the Supreme Court had passed its order on construction of SYL—Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal on June 4, last.

This Bill annuls the December 31, 1981, agreement between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan signed by the three Chief Ministers in the presence of the late Ms. Indira Gandhi and also all other agreements relating to the water of the rivers, Ravi and Beas.

• 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.

This, the Bill says, was done in "public interest". The annulment has come after 23 long years with two staunch political rivals, the Congress and the Akalis, joining hands to protect the state's riparian rights. Immediately after the Bill was passed, the Chief Minister, Capt. Amarinder Singh, accompanied by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, PPCC president, Mr. H.S. Hanspal, Ms. Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, Mr. Partap Singh Bajwa and a team of legal experts went to Raj Bhavan to meet the Governor, Justice O.P. Verma (ret'd.), to request him to give his assent to the Bill, as the dead-line for compliance with the Supreme Court order was July 15. The combined delegation spent an hour with the Governor. The Raj Bhavan sources said, "The Bill is being examined."

Capt. Amarinder Singh told TNS that he had not discussed the Bill with Ms. Sonia Gandhi. "Why involve her? When I go to Delhi, I shall brief her".

Presenting the Bill to the House, Capt. Amarinder Singh made an emotive speech giving facts, figures and background to the entire issue of sharing of river waters and steps taken in the recent past to protect and safeguard the interests of Punjab, particularly the farmers and save nine lakh acres going dry and barren, which would affect the livelihood of 1.5 million families.

The Bill says that Punjab was proud of its position in the Indian union, felt equal concern for its neighbours and as a sovereign authority also considered it its duty to uphold the constitution and the laws and to protect the interests of its inhabitants.

Under the 1981 agreement, flow series were changed from 1921-45 to 1921-60, which had the result of increasing the availability of Ravi-Beas waters from 15.85 MAF to 17.17 MAF. The allocation of water made to the states concerned under that Agreement was as under:

Haryana (non-riparian)	3.50 MAF,
Rajasthan (non-riparian)	8.60 MAF,
Delhi (non-riparian)	0.20 MAF,
Punjab (riparian)	4.22 MAF and
Jammu and Kashmir (riparian)	0.65 MAF.

Under clause IV of this agreement, Punjab and Haryana withdrew their respective suits from the Supreme Court. But the controversy rages on. The issue has become emotive.

Referring to the broad clauses of the proposed Bill, Capt. Amarinder Singh maintained that riparian and basin principles were ignored all along and allocation of the Ravi-Beas waters had always been affected by "ad hoc decisions and agreements, dictated by prevalent circumstances". Here was a typical case involving "emotive" issue of impending transfer of water from "deficit" Ravi-Beas basin to the "surplus" Yamuna basin.

Never any reliable and scientific study of hydrological, ecological and sociological impact of such large scale trans-basin diversion from Punjab to Haryana and Rajasthan had been undertaken. Besides this transfer, diversion was even contrary to the National Water Policy guidelines, he added.

Capt. Amarinder Singh pointed out, "Non-riparian and non-basin states of Haryana and Rajasthan are not only not entitled to any Ravi-Beas waters, even their current allocation and utilisation is totally disproportionate to the areas alleged to be falling in the Indus basin. Therefore, Punjab, as a good neighbour, has accepted such utilisations by Haryana and Rajasthan as 'usages by sufferance' but not as a matter of any recognition of their rights".

He supported this hypothesis, when he posed the question, "Does Punjab have surplus water and do the claimants of our water a legal right to it? Then, he paused for effect, "The answer to this question is a resounding

"no", and went on to give the following picture:

All three rivers, the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej, flow through the present Punjab and none through either Haryana or Rajasthan. No part of territories of these states fall within the basin areas of the Ravi and the Beas, although, according to unsubstantiated report of the Irrigation Commission, only 9,939 sq. kms. within Haryana fall in Indus basin, against 50,305 sq. kms. of Punjab.

Again, the present utilisation of Haryana was about 5.95 MAF, about 4.33 MAF from Sutlej and about 1.62 MAF from the Ravi-Beas water, through the existing systems. Also out of 17.17 MAF of "surplus" Ravi-Beas water, only 4.22 MAF was allocated to Punjab, a riparian state, against higher quantities to Haryana and Rajasthan. From the total surplus availability of 11.98 MAF of the Beas water, Punjab has been allocated 2.64 MAF.

Therefore, justifying the annulling of the December 31, 1981, agreement and all other agreements relating to the Ravi and the Beas, the Bill seeks to present the fact that ground realities have since undergone a sea change from that date and Punjab settlement of July 24, 1985, under the Rajiv-Longowal Agreement. Therefore, this had made the implementation of that 1981 agreement "onerous and injurious" to the public interest.

The availability of the Ravi-Beas water, 1717 MAF, as on December 31, 1981, has been reduced to 14.37 MAF, as per the flow series of 1981-2002. Haryana has been given 4.65 MA under the Yamuna agreement of May 12, 1994, which will be further augmented by the Sardar-Yamuna link. In the meanwhile, irrigation requirements have increased in Punjab. "The Punjab settlement, except one para 9, relating to allocation of the Ravi-Seas water, has remained unimplemented in letter and spirit, to date.

"In these circumstances, the terms of 1981 agreement were 'onerous, unfair, un-reasonable and contrary to the interests of the inhabitants of the Ravi-Beas basin, who have law-full rights to utilise water of these rivers'. Is the Bill justified? Will it tantamount to contempt of the court? In his well prepared speech, Capt. Amarinder Singh has addressed such questions, as well.

Armed with the House resolution of June 15 that aims to protect the rights of Punjab, legal opinions and all-party resolution of June 12, the Chief Minister said.

"This mandate enables the government to find ways and means to protect the people from adverse consequences of the Supreme Court judgment of June 4. The state had been advised that the obligations arising from an agreement or the contract did not fetter the powers of the legislature to enact a law in public interest.

"We have been further advised that it is a well settled law that the legislature is competent to remove or take away the basis of judgment by law and thereby it does not encroach upon the exercise of the judicial power of the judiciary and the legislative action within its competence, do not commit a contempt of court. However, final decision in all these matters lies in the court, as any law enacted by this august House is subject to a judicial review".

When the Bill had been introduced, Mr. Parkash Singh Badal stood up to express the collective anguish of the opposition that on such an important item, involving the question of "life and death" had been treated lightly by the government and till noon today "we had no idea of what the agenda was all about nor we had received copy of the Bill or what it was all about".

Mr. Badal said the traditions and conventions of the House were being eroded, day-by-

day. "It was also a disgrace that even the information inviting us to meet the Governor after the House had passed the resolution was sent by the Congress president, Mr. H.S. Hanspal, who was not involved in this in any which way. How can we discuss anything at such a short notice? We are against political confrontation and are available 24 hours for any thing related to the interests of the state and are willing to support the government".

Thereafter, the Speaker, Dr. Kewal Krishan said he had received a resolution sent by four Akali MLAs, Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, Capt. Kanwaljit Singh, Mr. Gurdev Singh Badal and Mr. Manpreet Singh Badal, for the consideration of the House.

Then, he ruled that since a comprehensive Bill was being presented, they could express their views while speaking on that. Mr. Manpreet Singh Badal and Capt. Kanwaljit Singh suggested that certain provisions, including Clause 78, in the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, be also annulled. BJP's Tikshan Sud, said though a "belated step", the Bill was a welcome and offered full co-operation but rued that the Opposition be given due place and respect.

On this the Captain had stated in his reply that whatever steps were required to be taken to protect Punjab's interests would be taken in consultation with the legal experts. The speakers, including Mr. Bir Devinder Singh and Mr. Jeet Mohinder Singh spoke in the context of historical background, stressing time and again on the riparian principles. Mr. Bir Devinder Singh recalled how even the British Government had sought a certificate from Punjab that it will protect its own interests under the riparian rights while selling water to Rajasthan.

Mr. Bir Devinder Singh even cautioned to be prepared following the enactment of the Act, terminating 1981 and other agreements since new situation would develop. Mr. Jeet Mohinder Singh wondered if the Bill would stop the construction of SYL. He was for adding a new amendment in the form of a clause in the Eastern Punjab Canal and Drains Act, 1873 that permission of the state Assembly should be mandatory to dig or construct any canal that carries water beyond the boundaries of the state.

#### RARE BONHOMIE IN HOUSE

The discussion on the Bill was, however, not without the usual political punches and colour. There were moments when some ministers and opposition members took pot shots blaming either side for having failed Punjab and messed up the water issue. Some Opposition members said had such a Bill been brought forward 23 years ago, Punjab would have been spared the agony. Even the Bill says that in the wake of large-scale militancy, the Punjab settlement was reached, which however, had remained unimplemented in letter and spirit.

For once, the House was in a serious mood. There were no political skirmishes, though usual jibes were heard. The Governor's and Speaker's galleries were packed.

But it was the Captain's day all the way. Having worked overtime to get this Bill prepared, presented and passed by the House, he responded to the collective anguish of the opposition, expressed by Mr. Badal, with utmost humility and courtesy, acknowledging all what Mr. Badal had said. But then he point by point not only explained the unusual circumstances, including race against time, under which the Bill in as prepared and thus could not be circulated earlier, giving the members a chance to prepare themselves.

Capt. Amarinder Singh was apologetic and said so repeatedly taking the wind out of the sails of the Akalis. He showed faint starchiness in his voice, when he responded to some

of the observations of Capt. Kanwaljit Singh, saying, "We are together here for an important task, not for rhetoric and emotive outbursts. We cannot allow Punjab to go back into the grip of violence".

Warming up, he concluded, "We will resort to all legal and constitutional means to seek justice. Already enough bloodshed has taken place. Even all the bodies have not been counted, so far. We shall fight to the end but within the parameters of laws, rules and the constitution. I will be willing to resign, if need be, for the sake of Punjab. The time is not for blame game. We have all made mistakes in the past. We are rectifying the same after 23 years. Come, let's join hands, close ranks. I appreciate the Opposition's cooperation".

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on July 12, I was returning to Washington from the NAACP Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and, therefore, missed four recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on recorded vote number 359, "yes" on recorded vote number 360, "no" on recorded vote number 361, and "yes" on recorded vote number 362.

#### HELP THE CARIBBEAN FIGHT TERRORISM

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an editorial in the July 6, 2004 issue of the *Carib News*, which discusses the issue of improving the national security of Caribbean nations. Our own security depends on how well protected the borders of our closest neighbors are. However, the purchasing and installation of new technology is extremely costly for many of these small islands. Not only is it important that these nations are secure because of their proximity to us, but also because of the many Americans who visit these countries each year. I believe that by helping the Caribbean with appropriate funding we can help them guard against terrorism without worsening the economic conditions of these nations. I urge my colleagues to support funding for Caribbean countries to assist in protecting against the terrorist threat.

[From the *Carib News*, July 6, 2004]

#### THE PRICE OF 9/11—DEVELOPING NATIONS FORCED TO PAY UP

Who can blame Caribbean nations and their sea and airport executives if the last thing on their minds immediately after 9/11 was how much they would have to spend as a result of the tragedy, the abhorrent act by religious zealots turned terrorists.

When New York's twin towers of the World Trade Center were turned to rubble, crushing nearly 3,000 unsuspecting and innocent people, the immediate and appropriate concern was for the lost of life.

After all, with thousands taken to untimely deaths our first worry had to be about human pain and suffering.

From New York, Washington, Georgetown, Santo Domingo, Philadelphia and Chicago to Kingston. Port of Spain and Bridgetown, to mention a handful of cities, the reaction was the same as the dimensions of the nightmare sank in. Later it was determined, that the Caribbean had paid a heavy price in the form of more than 100 lives lost.

Now, there is another price, one the countries are being forced to meet and its traceable directly to those and subsequent events and to the decisions being taken in Washington, London, Geneva and elsewhere in the developed world.

How high is that price?

Prof. Ivelaw Griffith, one of the leading security scholars in the Caribbean and Latin America, put the figure at hundreds of millions of dollars, money the Caribbean can't afford.

In the end though, the region can't afford to spend the unbelievably hefty sum.

Everton Walters, President of the Caribbean Port Managers Association, didn't dispute that figure but said the total would very much depend on the level of sophistication each country may eventually decide it needs.

All of this is very important because on Thursday, the deadline set by the International Maritime Organization for countries around the world, Caribbean states included, would kick in. That's when the basic security and other requirements contained in the IMO's International Ship and Port Facility Security, ISPS, code, which was approved 18 months ago, must be met. Failure to meet the deadline may result in sanctions.

Walters told this paper that based on conversations, e-mails and other forms of communication from various port managers, most, if not all of the ports would meet the cut-off date.

Still, there is considerable anxiety throughout the Caribbean as port executives work right to the last minute to ensure that they are ship-shape.

That means we may have to wait until July 1 to know for sure which countries are in compliance and which have failed to meet their obligation.

The code is a comprehensive set of requirements which developing countries are finding to be onerous to say the least.

As a matter of fact, Erthimios Mitropolous, IMO Secretary-General, recently voiced the agency's concern about the pace of effort towards international readiness when he complained that the "status of compliance by port facilities has not yet reached satisfactory level despite repeated calls to governments to intensify their efforts."

Just the other day, Brazil made it clear that its major port, perhaps the largest in Latin America and the Caribbean, wouldn't be able to meet the deadline. To live up to the code, for instance, Trinidad and Tobago must acquire sophisticated and costly equipment, boost its security staff and incur considerable recurring expenditure that's running into millions of dollars. Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Grenada, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Bahamas, Guyana, Antigua, you name, are in the same boat, if you will, and must meet horrifying expenses.

But the maritime code isn't the only set of requirements Caribbean states must satisfy. Their airports must have extensive security fencing, computers, scanners and the like to pass international muster.

That's where the sum of hundreds of millions of dollars would come in. For by the

time the process is completed, Caribbean, Latin American and African states would have spent at least \$50-100 billion to upgrade security at its various ports of entry, both air and sea, and they must do so without much international help. Although necessary, the security measures imposed by the United Nations, the IMO, the U.S., Britain and various rich countries are major financial and technical burden which must be met if the world's poorer nations are to remain as part of the international trading community. They must have access to shipping lanes and air space if they are to feed their people, satisfy tourism and manufacturing industries and otherwise participate in the economic world.

What's troubling about all of this is that these mandates imposed on developing countries aren't being financed by any international development agency or by many donor nations. In other words these are "unfunded mandates," which were laid down by an uncaring developed world, regardless of a nation's ability to pay for them.

The international community, quite rightly, was worried about terrorism and its consequences but little attention was paid to how these mandates would be funded.

The upshot: if Antigua, Haiti, Suriname, Ghana, Costa Rica, Algeria, Jamaica or any of a host of nations in every corner of the world are to meet international security standards, then they must shift resources from education, health, services for the youth and the elderly in order to satisfy international regulations imposed elsewhere.

That, by any measure, is unfair and counter-productive. The U.S., Britain and the G-8 industrialized nations must put this matter on their agenda and agree to fund some of the equipment acquisition programs and the training necessary to keep Third World states in the international arena.

#### COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN WRITES TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXPOSE REPRESSION OF MINORITIES IN INDIA

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan wrote to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva to ask them to help keep the world aware of the repression of minorities, including Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others, in India.

The letter pointed out that over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government, along with more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 88,000 Muslims in Kashmir, Muslims and Christians throughout India, and other minorities such as Dalits, the dark skinned aboriginal people of the subcontinent, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. Over 52,000 Sikhs and tens of thousands of other minorities are being held as political prisoners. The letter pointed out that the government has been involved in atrocities such as the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat and the massacre of Sikhs in Delhi and that it has not punished those who have carried out atrocities against Christians nor the killer of Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke.

Such atrocities are unacceptable in any country, but especially in one that claims to be democratic. We must take a stand for freedom. It is time to stop our aid to India and go

on record in support of self-determination for all the people seeking their freedom there.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place Dr. Aulakh's letter to the Human Rights Commission into the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,  
Washington, DC, July 13, 2004.

Madam Justice LOUISE ARBOUR,  
High Commissioner, United Nations Commission  
on Human Rights, Plaise des Nations, Geneva,  
Switzerland.

DEAR JUSTICE ARBOUR: As the Chief Prosecutor for the International Court of Justice, you helped to bring the persons who committed massacres, genocide, and pogroms on the innocent people of Bosnia to justice. Your work for human rights around the world is well known and we salute you for it. It is because of that record that I am writing to you today about the plight of the Sikhs and other minorities in India. The plight of the Sikhs and other minorities in India is deplorable. India claims to be "the world's largest democracy" and claims that it is a secular country, but in practice it is not. As Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, told America's National Public Radio, "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they are democratic, that they are secular, but they have nothing to do with a democracy, nothing to do with a secularism. They just kill Sikhs just to please the majority." Unfortunately, Sikhs are not the only victims of this brutality. Other minorities such as Christians, Muslims, even the Dalits (called "Untouchables") are persecuted in India.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 88,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988. Christians and Muslims have been murdered in other parts of the country as well, along with tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuri's, Tamils, and other minorities. According to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners under the repressive TADA law, which expired in 1995. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. These prisoners are held without charge or trial in "the world's largest democracy," some of them since 1984! That is 20 years in illegal detention. Their whereabouts are unknown. They might have been killed while in police custody.

Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra looked at the records of the cremation grounds at Patti, Tam Taran, and Durgiana Mandar and documented at least 6,018 secret cremations of young Sikh men ages 20-30. These young Sikhs were arrested by the police, tortured, murdered, then declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Their bodies were not even returned to their families. They have never officially been accounted for. The Punjab Human Rights Commission estimates that about 50,000 such secret cremations have occurred.

For exposing this horrendous atrocity, Sardar Khalra was abducted by the police on September 6, 1995 while he was washing his car, then murdered in police custody. The only witness to his kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police. Once he was arrested for trying to hand a petition to the then-British Home Minister, Jack Straw, in front of the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Police SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna tortured and murdered Akal Takht Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke and has never been punished for doing so. K.P.S. Gill, who was responsible for the murders of over 150,000 Sikhs in his time as Director General of Police, is still

walking around scot-free. He was even involved in leading the Indian Olympic field hockey team. His trip to the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 was protested by the Sikh community in the United States, which is over half a million strong, but he was allowed to come to the Olympics on an Olympic Committee visa. Immediately after the Olympic hockey game, he was shipped back to Punjab as a threat to peace and an affront to the Sikh community. 50 members of the U.S. Congress from both parties wrote to the President protesting his appearance in the United States.

In addition to this, the Indian government attacked the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, in June 1984, as well as 224 other Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) throughout Punjab. Sikh leaders Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and others, as well as over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in these attacks. The Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, was shot full of bullet holes by the Indian Army. Over 100 young Sikh boys ages 8 to 13 were taken out into the courtyard and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh state. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal" they were summarily shot to death.

Unfortunately, other minorities have also suffered greatly under the boot of Indian repression. In March 2002, 5,000 Muslims were killed in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand by and let the carnage happen, in an eerie parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in November 1984 in which Sikh police officers were locked in their barracks while the state-run television and radio called for more Sikh blood.

Christians have suffered under a wave of repression since Christmas 1998. An Australian missionary, Graham Staines, and his two young sons, ages 8 and 10, were burned to death while they slept in their jeep by a mob of Hindu militants connected with the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), an organization formed in support of the Fascists. The mob surrounded the burning jeep and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. None of the mob has ever been brought to justice; instead the crime has been blamed on one scapegoat. Mr. Staines' widow was thrown out of the country after the incident. An American missionary, Joseph Cooper of Pennsylvania, was expelled from India after being beaten so severely that he had to spend a week in the hospital. None of the persons responsible for beating Mr. Cooper has been prosecuted. Churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked and vandalized, priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, all with impunity. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. Amnesty International has not been allowed into Punjab since 1978. Even Castro's Cuba has allowed Amnesty into the country more recently. What is India hiding?

My organization, the Council of Khalistan, is leading the Sikh struggle for freedom and sovereignty. Working with the Congress of the United States, we have internationalized the struggle for freedom for the Sikhs and all the people of South Asia since the Council of Khalistan's inception on October 7, 1987, the day that the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India. We have worked to preserve the accurate history of the Sikhs and the repression of minorities by India by preserving the information in the Congressional Record. We continue to work for freedom for the Sikh Nation. Self-determination is the essence of democracy.

On behalf of the Sikh Nation, I am asking the Human Rights Commission to expose In-

dia's reign of terror to the international community. It is time for India to be held to account for its tyrannical rule covered by a veneer of democracy. Please do not let India hide behind a false claim of democracy and secularism. By shining the light on India's terroristic rule, you can help bring freedom and basic human rights to all the people of the subcontinent.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this situation and for helping the people of South Asia.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
President, Council of Khalistan.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN  
STATE

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a great institution of higher learning, the Pennsylvania State University, as a leader in post-secondary education. On July 1, 2004, Penn State began a year-long celebration of its 150th Anniversary, marking the historic achievements it has made in Pennsylvania, the Nation, and around the world.

Penn State, known at its inception in 1855 as "the Farmers" High School," was born at the behest of the State's Agriculture Society. The Society members recognized the need to base the growing field of agriculture in sound sciences. College President Evan Pugh rose to the challenge, uniquely combining classical studies with practical application. Pugh's vision soon became the foundation of the institution's mission: to provide "instruction, research, outreach and extension".

As student and business interest grew over the following decades, Penn State grew along with it. Recognizing the limitations the Depression placed on households in the 1930's, Penn State began opening satellite campuses throughout the state. Penn State began renting classroom space in York, Pennsylvania, which is in my Congressional District, as early as 1926.

In 1955, the Penn State York campus officially opened and began offering courses to students at its current location. The campus was much-admired for having one of the highest concentrations of students enrolled in technical courses and studying the field of engineering on a satellite campus. As a student who studied engineering at the Penn State York Campus, I can attest to the high quality education provided to Penn State students. Continuing its mission for outreach and extension, Penn State merged with the Dickinson School of Law in 1997, also located in my Congressional District in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

There can be no doubt that Penn State has played a strong and vitally important role in the education of students around the world. With three members of my staff, both past and present, as Penn State alumni, I can attest to the quality education Penn State provides. Even as the proud son of a University of Pittsburgh graduate, a known "rival" of Penn State, I wish to congratulate the Pennsylvania State University on its successful 150 years, and extend best wishes for continued successes in the years to come.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker I was not present on July 12, 2004, due to a train and bad weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Holt Amendment to the Legislative Appropriations bill (rollcall 359), "no" on the Hefley Amendment to the Legislative Appropriations bill (rollcall 360), "yes" on the Motion to Recommit (rollcall 361), and "yes" on final passage of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill (rollcall 362).

## IN RECOGNITION OF LAURA DOMINGUEZ

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Laura Dominguez, a very special young woman whose life can teach us all about the power of perseverance and love. Laura is a bit quiet until you get to know her, but once you do, you find that she is smart, witty, and brave. You also learn of her loving family: her parents, Rosie and Abel, and her older brother Abel Aaron.

In July 2001, Laura and her brother were driving home from summer school. There was an oil slick in the road that made the car uncontrollable. Laura broke her neck at the C-6 level, qualifying her as a quadriplegic. At that time, doctors told her that she would never walk again. Laura was undaunted by this prognosis.

Ever since that day, Laura and her family have demonstrated an unbelievable amount of fortitude and perseverance. They have consulted with a number of spinal cord specialists with the hope of watching Laura walk again. Laura spent six months in St. Louis and one year in California so that she could receive the best treatment available. It was in California that the Dominguez family learned of a surgery being done in Portugal in which tissue from one's sinus area is transplanted into the spinal cord at the injury sight. In March 2003, Laura traveled to Portugal and became the tenth person in the world, and only the second American, to undergo this surgery.

By July 2003, 70% of the lesion in Laura's spinal cord looked like normal spinal cord tissue. Since that phenomenal surgery, Laura has also regained feeling down to her hip level and she has begun to regain some feeling and movement in her legs. Now Laura, once seen as a lost cause by some members of the medical community, has regained her ability to stand with the use of a walker.

Laura is in Washington, D.C., today to share her story, so that we may put a face to the abstract debates that occur in Congress regarding the benefits of stem cell research. Laura is also a living symbol of hope for the more than 200,000 people in the United States who are living with a spinal cord injury. Her story demonstrates the seemingly unattainable feats that can be accomplished when one has faith in oneself, and the unwavering love and support from family and friends.

I wish Laura and her family many blessings as she continues to push her body and her mind to overcome her physical challenges.

## HONORING JAN PERKINS, CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jan Perkins, City Manager for the City of Fremont, California, a community of 208,000 people. Jan has provided exemplary service during her more than 26 years in city management. She will soon retire from her position as Fremont's City Manager and she will be sorely missed.

In addition to serving Fremont, Jan's city management included Morgan Hill as City Manager, Santa Ana as Assistant City Manager, and as Assistant City Manager in Grand Rapids and Adrian, Michigan.

Jan received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. She also received a certification for the Program for Senior Executives in State & Local Government from the acclaimed John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

A member of the International City Managers Association, Jan has chaired several committees within the Association, including the International Committee, the Awards Committee, Innovations Advisory Committee, and Conference Planning Committee. She is President of the California City Management Foundation, is a member of the Executive Board of the City Manager's Department of the League of California Cities, a Fellow with the national Academy for Public Administration and a member of the Niles Rotary Club in Fremont.

Jan's dedication, expertise in city management, and her proficient leadership abilities have greatly benefited the city of Fremont and beyond. I applaud Jan Perkins for her contributions and wish her well in her future endeavors.

## IN HONOR OF COLENIA CANFIELD

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Colenia Canfield who has spent the last four years hand crocheting lap robes for veterans at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC).

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Center is one of the best veteran health centers in the nation. Last year alone they logged over 650,000 outpatient visits. Most of these dedicated veterans are from Houston and south-east Texas.

As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 305 of American Legion Post 305 in The Woodlands, TX. Ms. Canfield wanted to express her appreciation for the service these veterans have rendered to this country. She wanted them to know that she and thousands

of the others in our community are grateful for their sacrifice that has kept our country free.

A good friend suggested Colenia should use her talent to crochet as a way to bless area veterans. In October 2000, she started to crochet lap robes for the veterans receiving care at the DeBakey Medical Center. Colenia hasn't stopped crocheting since.

Colenia Canfield completed her first robe on October 14, 2000 and has recently completed her 200th robe. Each robe consists of 81 squares that are eight inches by eight inches and takes 80 hours of hand crocheting labor each to complete. She intends to make the lap robes as long as we have veterans. Colenia Canfield's dedication and love of this country and the brave veterans who have dedicated their lives to defending it should be an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Colenia Canfield. All of the residents of The Woodlands, Texas, and the 8th Congressional District are grateful for her dedication and service to our nation's veterans.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall numbers 359, 360, 361 and 362. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall numbers 359, 360, 361 and 362.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Monday, July 12, I was unavoidably detained on Amtrak for over 7 hours, due to bad weather, while traveling back for votes on rollcall Nos. 359-362. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 359, "no" on rollcall vote 360, and "yea" on rollcall votes 361 and 362.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes 359-362 due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 359, "no" on rollcall 360, "yea" on rollcall 361, and "yea" on rollcall 362.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF CHIEF  
JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I rise today in strong support of the resolution to honor the United States' fourth Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall by issuing 400,000 commemorative coins for the 250th anniversary of his birth. Chief Justice Marshall served in each of the three branches of government and, as the fourth Supreme Court Justice, was one of the most influential forces in building the federal government as we know it today.

John Marshall began his service to our country as a member of the Continental Army under George Washington. He fought alongside Washington in battles in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania and endured the harsh winter at Valley Forge. After the war Mr. Marshall became a lawyer and began his political career. He was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and then to the U.S. Congress as the Representative from the Richmond District in Virginia. His superior understanding of the law earned him the position of Secretary of State under the Adams' Administration. It was from here where he rose to Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

It was in the Supreme Court that John Marshall made the greatest contributions to American history. Having served for 34 years, Chief Justice Marshall remains the longest serving Chief Justice. He has offered over 500 opinions and presided over such landmark cases as *McCulloch v. Maryland* and *Marbury v. Madison*, which established the power of judicial review and was the first decision to declare an Act of Congress unconstitutional. The opinions delivered from the Marshall Court have shaped the basic fundamentals of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.

I believe that Chief Justice John Marshall's life-long legacy should be recognized. Therefore, I urge my fellow Members to vote with me in support of H.R. 2768 and honor Justice Marshall as one of the most influential figures in American history.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
JUDGE H. A. TAYLOR

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Circuit Court Judge H. A. Taylor who died on May 21, 2004 at the age of 63 in Little Rock.

Judge Taylor was originally from Jefferson County and had an impressive career which spanned over the course of three decades. Graduating from Pine Bluff High in 1958, Judge Taylor went on to earn his bachelor of science and his law degree in 1965 from the University of Arkansas. Judge Taylor was elected to office in 1975 to the 2nd Division Circuit Court Judge for the 11th Judicial District West, serving Jefferson and Lincoln counties for 29 years.

Judge Taylor had a distinguished military career, serving in the Vietnam War and earning both the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals.

I am deeply saddened by Judge Taylor's death and offer my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Marcy Taylor. His legacy will live on through the lives he touched and by those who knew him and counted him as a friend.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I rise in favor of H.R. 4766. While I intend to vote for this bill, I support my friend and colleague, JOHN PETERSON's request that conferees work to increase the producer value added grants program and the rural broadband loans program. These two programs are extremely important to the future of rural areas like those found in my district of western Wisconsin.

Furthermore, I strongly urge conferees to do more to meet the funding needs of voluntary conservation programs that serve farmers and ranchers while also helping to improve soil, water and air quality, and provide critical wildlife and fish habitat.

Farmers and ranchers, especially those from regions who may not benefit from the estimated \$130 billion in crop subsidies, rely on U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation assistance to provide much-needed financial support as well as meet critical environmental challenges.

Unfortunately, this bill would set a \$1.01 billion limit on the environmental quality incentives program—compared to a FY2005 level of \$1.2 billion set in the farm bill. Likewise, the farmland protection program is set at \$112 million, \$13 million less than the budget request. Lastly, the wetlands reserve program will enroll 175,000 acres, which are 25,000 less than prescribed in the farm bill.

I am pleased, however, that this bill rejects the Bush administration's proposed sharp cuts in natural resources conservation service programs. It will provide \$993 million for the five NRCS conservation programs, \$176 million more than the administration's request.

Secondly, I appreciate that the Appropriations Committee acted on the request made by myself and other members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Chronic Wasting Disease taskforce in providing \$18.589 million in aid to states' fight against CWD—a fatal neurological disease found amongst our Nation's populations of wild and captive cervids. I'm particularly pleased to note \$1.75 million will go directly to Wisconsin, which has been especially hard hit by this devastating disease. These federal funds are crucial to help au-

thorities continue to monitor this deadly disease in order to avoid future outbreaks.

RECOGNIZING RICK GONZALES, SR.  
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
AND DEDICATION TO HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the service of Rick Gonzales, Sr., who has been a respected community leader in Yolo County for more than 50 years.

Rick Gonzales was born in Saguache, Colorado in 1919 and raised in Elko, Nevada. Drafted into World War II, he served in Okinawa during the Pacific campaign. After being discharged he settled in San Francisco where he attended barber school and met Angela Duran. In 1949 they married and moved to Woodland, California, where they operated several barbershops and raised four sons, La Verne, Garry, Rick Jr. and Jerry.

Rick Gonzales founded the Pan American Club, an organization that gave Latino youth an opportunity to play sports and attend social activities. Rick Gonzales has served on numerous boards and commissions that advocate for the youth and disenfranchised in the community. As a result of these efforts, he twice received the Yolo County Bar Association's Liberty Bell award. He is the only individual to be honored twice.

Rick is one of the founders of the Mexican American Concilio of Yolo County. In 1983 the Concilio started its annual dinner-dance to recognize individuals who have made a contribution to the Latino community. Now a signature community event, the Concilio's dinner-dance provides a growing number of scholarships and awards to students and adults throughout Yolo County.

Over the years Rick Gonzales endured insults and recriminations but his commitment to justice prevailed. His work helped to increase diversity in the local workforce. On June 22, 2004, in recognition of his service, the Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services was named for Rick Gonzales. The dedication plaque reads, "Rick Gonzales has dedicated his life to giving a voice to the poor and disenfranchised of Yolo County and ensuring equal opportunities for all."

Mr. Speaker, Rick Gonzales Sr. has had a far-reaching and enduring impact on his community. His outstanding leadership and commitment to community service has significantly benefited the people of Woodland and has contributed to making Yolo County the vibrant and culturally rich community that is today. It is appropriate that we acknowledge him today.

HONORING PFC WESLEY SWANSON

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Private First Class Wesley Swanson of Greeley, Colorado.

In 1999, Wesley graduated from Greeley West High School and soon after attended Aims Community College as well as the University of Northern Colorado. After the tragedy of September 11, 2001 Wesley signed up for the University of Northern Colorado Reserve Officer Training Corp.

Wesley joined the Army and was sent over to Iraq in October of 2003. While in Iraq, he served as a 21 Bravo Combat Engineer. His mission was to clear an area for vehicles and troops by using high explosives.

While Wesley was in Balad, which is about 30 miles north of Baghdad, a bomb exploded and a suicide bomber rammed into his HMMWV vehicle, knocking Wesley off of the gun position on top. He was taken to the hospital for treatment of torn muscles and ligaments in his neck and shoulder.

Since then, Wesley has spent the past several months at Fort Carson with his wife, Jennifer, who is pregnant with their first child. He is currently working as a recruiter, but wants to make the Army his career so he plans on re-enlisting.

Wesley comes from a military family. His grandfather served in World War II and his uncle died while serving in Vietnam.

I am proud to honor Wesley for his courage and sacrifice on behalf of all Americans. Wesley's courage has helped to protect our democracy and keep our homeland safe. I urge all of my fellow colleagues to applaud Wesley for his service to our great Nation.

#### MISSION FIRST, PEOPLE ALWAYS

### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women in our armed forces who are serving courageously in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the world. Our Nation owes these brave troops a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have endured to make this world a safer place.

I particularly want to salute our reservists, who have transformed from a supporting role to become a critical part of the backbone of our military. More than 40% of our troops now deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan draw from the Reserve Component. Many of them have served multiple tours, been called up with less than five days' notice, and had their deployments extended well beyond the promised "12 months boots on the ground."

Now the Defense Department has announced that it will activate 5,600 members of the Individual Ready Reserve, a pool of former soldiers that have completed their active or reserve duty but still have time left on their contracts. And the next troop rotation for Iraq and Afghanistan will only increase the burden on the Reserve Component, who will soon make up 43% of our deployed troops beginning in February of 2005.

Tonight, I would like to highlight the harrowing story of the 94th Military Police Company, the longest activated reserve unit to date. Roughly one-third of the 94th's members live in Massachusetts, and I have had the opportunity to speak with many of their family members in recent months.

The 94th Military Police Company first deployed to Iraq in April of 2003 after fulfilling a

mission in Bosnia. The unit has seen its deployment extended twice—first by six months, then by four more. On Easter weekend of this year, members of the 94th loaded onto a bus in Kuwait to finally come home. Just as they were about to depart, they were turned back by their commanders and told they would have to serve another 120 days because there simply wasn't enough trained MPs to replace them. Now, just a few weeks before they are expected to return home for good, they have been sent out on another convoy mission.

While we are indebted to their service, the story of the 94th MP Company shows that this country can't continue to place the burden of war squarely on the back of our Reserve Component. If we ask these men and women to put themselves in harm's way in Iraq for extended periods of time, we must ensure that they are given the same fair treatment as their active duty counterparts. If we do not, we will face a serious recruitment and retention crisis.

What we need is a committed strategy to restructure our weary and overstretched Army.

First and foremost, we must expand the active duty endstrength of our military. I applaud my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee on both sides of the aisle for recognizing this need. We have authorized an increase of 30,000 soldiers and 9,000 marines over three years as part of this year's defense authorization bill. I am disappointed that the Pentagon has chosen to overstretch our current forces instead of expanding our pool of manpower.

Second, I am concerned that the occupational specialties most in demand—such as military police, intelligence analysts and engineers—are highly concentrated in the Reserve Component. Instead of calling up the Individual Ready Reserve, we need to ensure that we have an adequate pool of specialists within the active-duty force. This requires an aggressive recruitment and training program backed by incentives to attract people with the right skills.

Third, we need to lay out a transparent, equitable rotation schedule for our reservists that allows members and their families to predict when they will be activated. This administration has treated Guard and Reserve families with arrogance and a lack of respect. They have notified members of the Army Reserves and National Guard just days before deploying them to Iraq, broken promises that they would only serve for twelve months boots on the ground, and issued sweeping stop-loss orders to prevent members from retiring when they have fulfilled their service.

The Administration's policies aren't pro-family or pro-military. Our troops and their families deserve better. If we don't treat our Reserve Component with the respect they deserve, our military's readiness will suffer. That has consequences for all of us.

As our troops say, "Mission first, people always." Our reservists are fighting on the front lines of the battlefield to protect our security, freedom, and democracy. We need to stand up for them and provide them with the respect they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBERS AND STAFF OF INDOOR RECREATION OF ORLEANS COUNTY

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of a very special group of volunteers who hail from Vermont's Northeast Kingdom—the tri-county area of Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties. I rise to honor the dedicated men and women who have formed and are building Indoor Recreation of Orleans County, more generally known as IROC.

Dr. Robert E. Smith, a resident of Newport, chairs the IROC Board of Directors. Dr. Smith and the IROC Board are supported by a 50-member President's Advisory Council, a group of community leaders whose guidance has been invaluable all along the way.

James G. Davis directs IROC's day-by-day operations for the Board of Directors. Mr. Davis is a native Vermonter whose vision for the organization has been inspirational.

IROC's three-fold mission addresses key regional issues: To improve the quality of life and develop healthy lifestyles for Northeast Kingdom area residents—especially youth—through educational and recreational activities; to develop community-centered facilities and programs that foster a safe environment and inclusive programs to all participants; and, to deliver its services and programs at the lowest cost possible.

IROC will have five distinct facility emphases: (1) an aquatic center; (2) a multi-purpose recreation arena; (3) a fitness center; (4) a community room, and (5) an educational/technology center. Within each of these areas, multiple activities have been identified for further development.

The Aquatic Center (Main Level) will focus not only on general swimming but also on competitive swimming, rehabilitation, and other types of water activities. North Country Hospital and Health Center, Inc. has committed to using the Aquatic Center on a regular basis for those patients whose rehabilitation program would benefit from hydrotherapy.

The Multi-purpose Recreation Arena (Main Level) has been designed specifically to allow for flexibility in activities. The floor plan for this area includes three regulation-size high school basketball courts that can be converted (almost instantaneously) to accommodate indoor soccer, in-line skating, lacrosse, volleyball, tennis and badminton. The multi-purpose area includes seating for 500 spectators and will serve the anticipated demand for general recreation as well as league and tournament play. A walking track will surround the multi-purpose floor area. The design of the multi-purpose area will allow for specialty shows (home, garden, auto, for example) and concerts.

A 2,100 sq. ft. Fitness Center will offer cardiovascular training and exercise, aerobics instruction, fitness training, muscle toning, and body building activities to interested individuals on a membership basis. North Country Hospital and Health Center, Inc. has also committed to using the Fitness Center on a regular

basis for its rehabilitation and wellness programs.

IROC's Mezzanine Level will contain a 4,200 square foot multi-purpose Lloyd Selby Community Room designed to accommodate meetings, dances, special events, educational programs and seminars, and other community-based activities.

The Mezzanine Level will also house an Educational/Technology Center equipped with state-of-the-art computers and other multimedia materials. Designed for such educational purposes as after-school tutoring, computer training, employment and training seminars, and other related activities, the programs in the Technology Center will focus on youth.

In addition, the Mezzanine Level will contain a Meeting Room that will be made available, as needed and as a public service, to area non-profit organizations in need of meeting space.

To date, the IROC Board of Directors has been able to secure and purchase a ten-acre parcel of land in Derby, Vermont, erect a 54,000 square foot steel building on the site, and initiate the interior build-out of the facility. All of this has been made possible through the generosity of local northeastern Vermonters, whose cash and in-kind contributions to date total over \$2.5 million, a remarkable achievement, given the region's poor economy.

As you all know, Vermont is a beautiful state, and the Northeast Kingdom represents one of its loveliest regions. All of the natural beauty in the area provides a wonderful place to live and a special place to spend a vacation. After our many summer visitors leave, however, and before the snow arrives, our year-round residents settle into their fall and winter routines. Off-season unemployment rebounds, and local residents look for activities to occupy the long cold nights and short days.

There is an international ice youth hockey program—Border Minor Hockey—and there is, of course, the usual array of school-based sports programs. But those programs reach only a small percentage of the population. Youth, working adults, and the community beyond school age are largely left out of the picture. The residents of the Northeast Kingdom have recognized this need; they have organized themselves; and they are supporting IROC to respond to the region's needs.

When the facility is opened later this year, IROC will deliver indoor recreation, educational opportunities, rehabilitation services, and many related community activities to the citizens of Vermont. When IROC is fully operational, over 30 full-time equivalent jobs will have been created in a region that is sorely in need of increased employment opportunities.

This has not happened overnight. In fact, it has taken nearly 16 years for IROC to get where it is today. I am pleased to report, however, that as we stand here today, the process that began in 1988 is nearly complete.

Funds are still being raised to finish the interior as originally designed, and program grant proposals are being written to fund the educational and community activities that will take place in the building. I am proud to say that my office has been able to secure almost \$340,000 in federal funding to support IROC through the Economic Development Initiative at the Department of Housing & Urban Development and the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Speaker, IROC is an organization that is having an immensely positive effect on this area of Vermont. Once this community center is built, it should serve as a national model for building indoor community recreation centers throughout Vermont and the rest of the country. To accomplish that goal, I have introduced H.R. 1022, the Urban and Rural Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Act. H.R. 1022 would provide \$100 million in federal funding for the construction of community centers in rural and urban areas to reduce obesity and prevent disease and currently has over 20 co-sponsors.

The residents of this most rural area of the state have shown true Vermont spirit by supporting this project through their financial and in-kind investments and through their extraordinary volunteer activities. The Vermont National Guard contributed over a week of in-kind labor (valued at \$200,000) to help with building construction. Local businesses have provided materials and labor as gifts. The community raised over \$226,000 in a three-week period in response to a challenge grant made in 2003 by a former area resident. And these are only a few examples of how the community has participated in building IROC!

The final fund raising efforts for the Aquatic Center and rehabilitation area are going forward. The facility will open in the fall, and memberships will soon be available. Built on a sound business model, IROC will be self-supporting, and this exemplary organization represents just one more example of the "we can grow our own" spirit of the hardy residents of Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties.

Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Colleagues, please join me as I commend and recognize the members of the Board of Directors, staff, and other citizens of Vermont who have made this project possible.

#### 2004-2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### IN MEMORY OF GARY SAGE

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Sage, who recently passed away. His contributions to both the City of Carmel as

well as the international music community made him a truly commendable figure that will be greatly missed.

Born in Carmel, California, Gary was born into a musical family. His father, A. Lee Sage, and his mother, Emma Joanne Sage, played important roles in the founding of the Monterey Jazz Festival. The lineage of Gary's family can be traced back to Sir David of Wales, an ancient King who was purportedly the uncle of King Arthur. Gary is survived by his former wife Katherine Cameron Sage and his son Elijah Merlin David Sage who is continuing the musical legacy that his father left behind.

Gary proved his own musical genius as early as age fourteen, and is considered to be one of the best stride jazz pianists of the past few decades. He is also known as the pre-eminent piano restorer both in Carmel, and in the worldwide musical community.

Gary was approached throughout his life by such notable piano companies as Steinway and Sons for his expertise in piano restoration. He was of the few craftsmen who knew the intricacies of piano building and made the restoration and construction of pianos into an art form.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Gary Sage for the indelible impression he left in the music world. I join his community, friends and family in honoring Gary, and have no doubt that his contributions as a musician and as a craftsman will live on for future generations.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member unavoidably was off the Hill and missed the final series of votes on H.R. 4766, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2005. If this Member had been present, he would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 366, the Baca amendment—"no"; rollcall No. 367, the Tancredo amendment—"aye"; rollcall No. 368, the Chabot amendment—"no"; rollcall No. 369, the Kaptur amendment—"yes"; and rollcall No. 370, final passage on H.R. 4766—"aye."

#### HONORING PETER J. HANLON

### HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday evening, July 3, 2004, Peter J. Hanlon died at the age of 98. A resident of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Hanlon was supervisor of North Carolina's national forests for 10 years before retiring from the U.S. Forest Service in 1970 after 36 years of distinguished service.

Hanlon's career with the Forest Service began in the 1930s on the Allegheny National Forest. His career was then briefly interrupted by service in the region's CCC camps. Prior to dissolution of these camps Hanlon was superintendent of CCC Camp Thornwood in Pocahontas County, WV. As World War II began,

Hanlon rejoined the Forest Service in the capacity of forest ranger for the Greenbrier Ranger District on West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest, as well as staff officer for Virginia's George Washington National Forest and the regional forester in Upper Darby.

As Supervisor of North Carolina's national forests, Hanlon frequently advocated for sustainable land use practices that accommodated recreational activities, wildlife habitats, timber harvests and general preservation. His belief that the land could and should be used in a responsible manner, balancing these practices, allowed him to ensure that no single interest outweighed or endangered another. Even as he believed in preservation, he understood the benefits of well-managed clear cutting and neither interest was ever allowed to jeopardize equal land use. Throughout his 35 year retirement, Hanlon continued to echo these noble principles.

Not only did Hanlon manage land use with exceptional expertise, he also secured the expansion of North Carolina's national forests by acquiring new lands. The most notable acquisition was that of the Nantahala River Gorge. Hanlon's role in creating the Cradle of Forestry, a museum located off U.S. 276, just south of the Blue Ridge Parkway, was pivotal and earned him an honorary doctorate degree from the Biltmore School of Forestry. In 1970, then Governor Terry Sanford designated Hanlon as North Carolina's Conservationist of the Year. This recognition only enhances his legacy as a celebrated figure of North Carolina's rich history.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE ROBERTSON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Catherine Robertson and thank her for her work as the Grand Junction Field Office Manager with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Her years of commitment and dedication as a public servant are certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this Nation today. I, along with my fellow Americans am grateful for all that she has accomplished during her years of service.

Catherine began her distinguished career with the BLM as a Community Planner student intern for the Pacific Continental Shelf office in 1980. After a transfer to the Washington office as part of a management development program she moved again in 1984 to the Colorado State Office where she became the Oil and Gas Program Coordinator and later the Fluid Minerals Branch Chief. Her diligent work ethic enabled her to assume the post of Clear Lake Resource Area Manager in the Ukiah District, California. Catherine received her bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Administration from California State University and her master's degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of California, Los Angeles.

During my tenure in the United States Congress, Catherine provided exceptional service to constituents of the 3rd Congressional Dis-

trict of Colorado. Catherine worked hard to ensure that inquiries on behalf of my constituents submitted to Bureau of Land Management were addressed in a timely manner and thorough in their content. Catherine routinely demonstrated a willingness to assist beyond the standard response, demonstrating a genuine concern for the constituent while upholding the policies of the Bureau of Land Management.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Catherine Robertson has been an invaluable resource to the organization and it is my honor to recognize her service and dedication before this body of Congress and this Nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with devoted public servants like Catherine Robertson. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the Bureau of Land Management and constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of enthusiastic service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 12, 2004, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes number 359, 360, 361, and 362. Rollcall vote 359 was on the Holt amendment to H.R. 4755, the FY05 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act; rollcall vote 360 was on the Hefley amendment to H.R. 4755; rollcall vote 361 was on the motion to recommit to H.R. 4755; and rollcall vote 362 was on final passage of H.R. 4755.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 359, 361, and 362, and "no" on rollcall vote 360.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATT GLASGOW

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Matt Glasgow and thank him for his work as Public Affairs Director for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest. His years of commitment and dedication as a public servant are certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I, along with my fellow Americans am grateful for all that he has accomplished during his years of service.

Matt has dutifully served this nation with twenty years of military service in the Army. He carried out three tours in Vietnam, and was awarded numerous accolades including the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry; the Army Commendation Medal; and the Bronze Star for his courageous efforts.

Matt served the Department of the Army as a Master Sergeant in the public affairs arena before transferring to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest Public Affairs Director in 1987. As the current Public Affairs Director for Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest,

he serves as the primary contact on constituent issues. He responds quickly in an effort to provide assistance, works diligently to foster and maintain positive working relationships to improve services, and he is an effective and responsive communicator with the people he serves.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Matt Glasgow has been an invaluable resource to the organization. It is my honor to recognize his service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Matt. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment he has given to the U.S. Forest Service and the constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for his years of dedicated service.

COMMENDING THE SALEM ARTS ASSOCIATION

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Salem Art Association for its many years of success in promoting the arts in Oregon's mid-Willamette Valley.

This weekend, over 100,000 people from all over Oregon and around the country will congregate in Salem's historic Bush Pasture Park for the three days of art, food, and music that make up the Salem Art Fair.

For 85 years, the Salem Art Association has pursued its goal of strengthening and promoting art education, art enjoyment, and historic preservation in Oregon's capital city of Salem and surrounding communities. With a dedicated staff, hard-working volunteers, and a strong board providing leadership and support, the Salem Art Association has grown into one of the largest community arts organizations in the state, and the services they provide to the community are both impressive and important.

In addition to running an art gallery and museum, the organization operates the Visual ARTS Center, which offers arts education opportunities for all ages, including classes in ceramics, painting, drawing, mixed media, crafts and more. The Salem Art Association also provides an Arts in Education Program, giving hands-on art opportunities for children by bringing the arts to more than 10,000 students in local schools.

I have seen the fruits of arts education through my work with the Congressional Arts Competition, which I co-chaired last year. Just this week I had the pleasure of hosting Ashley Fanning of Dallas, Oregon at the Congressional Arts Competition at our nation's Capitol. Ashley, who benefitted from her high school's strong arts program, won the competition I held in my district earlier this year. Ashley's success reminds me that arts education is an integral part of celebrating the creative spirit of young adults and helping our children become productive citizens.

The Salem Art Association, its staff, volunteers, and board provides the public with an outstanding service. The collective talent, dedication, and hard work of this association has played a vital role in fostering vibrant, livable communities that celebrate art and creativity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERONICA  
VASQUEZ

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Veronica Vasquez and thank her for her years of service she has given to the Colorado school system. At the end of this year she will retire after devoting thirty years of her life to educating students in Alamosa Colorado. As she celebrates her retirement, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize her distinguished career before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Veronica decided on a career in teaching after thinking about pursuing a career as a reporter or a social worker. She began as a substitute teacher in the Alamosa School District before taking her first full time teaching position as a bilingual kindergarten through fourth grade teacher. She was employed at several of the elementary schools in Alamosa until she was offered a five-year position as a parent community liaison, where she worked with at risk families and students coordinating crisis prevention and intervention teams. After her five-year position she went back to teaching for three years before becoming Principal of Polston Primary School.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Veronica Vasquez before this body of Congress and this nation. Veronica's willingness to provide her time and experience to Alamosa's children is something truly special and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE LAKE  
OSWEGO DYNAMO BLUE BOYS  
TEAM AS THEY ADVANCE TO NA-  
TIONALS

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Lake Oswego Soccer Club's Dynamo Blue boys' team who will be competing in the U-12 bracket of the U.S. Club Soccer Nationals tournament held in Cary, North Carolina July 22 through July 25, 2004.

These Lake Oswego Soccer Club members will represent the region of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California: Ryogo Asai, Cale Begelow, Brandon Blackmore, Jacob Campbell, Jack Cowan, Kyle DeVos, Ben Dugoni, Alex Haagenson, Ben Handy, Thomas Iwasaki, Erik McAdams, Nick Nelson, Bennett Savage, Luke Thompson, and Tyler Webster and are coached by Michael Harn.

As a former physical education teacher and coach, I know the positive benefits of giving students the opportunity to participate in team sports. Whether working together as a team, exercising good sportsmanship skills or developing pride in playing one's best, team sports teach our children valued lessons they will carry throughout life.

We also know that childhood activity improves child health which, in turn, is beneficial

to adult health. When children have the opportunity to live an active life through programs such as soccer, children have a much higher propensity to live as active adults which reduces their health risks.

I would also like to commend U.S. Club Soccer, a non-profit organization, committed exclusively to the support and development of competitive soccer clubs. With close to 8 million youth soccer players in our country and growing, it is safe to say that U.S. soccer players pose a significant challenge on the world's playing field.

Again, good luck to the Dynamo Blue boys' team from Lake Oswego. I know that you will play your best and carry the pride of representing our community, our state and the region at Nationals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL  
MICHAEL V. PALATAS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and passing of Colonel Michael Palatas of Pueblo, Colorado. Michael was one of Colorado's most decorated veterans and as his family mourns his passing, I think it is appropriate to remember his life of dedicated service before this body of Congress and this nation.

Michael bravely answered his nation's call to service in 1941, when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. As a Second Lieutenant, he fought battles in the Pacific theater during World War II. During the Korean War he served as a platoon leader in five major battles. A few years later, Michael served as a commanding officer for the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines and later an executive officer for the 9th Marine Regiment in the Vietnam War. In recognition of his valiant actions on the battlefield, Michael received several awards from the military, including: a Silver Star, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, six Presidential Unit Citations, a Combat Action Ribbon, a Good Conduct Medal, two Navy Unit Commendations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation. After thirty-four years of dedicated service, he and his family settled on his ranch in Lake George, Colorado. Later, they moved to Colorado Springs and eventually to Rye, Colorado. Outside his military life, he actively participated in his church.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Palatas was a pillar of his community and he will be sorely missed. His pride for his nation was demonstrated in the many years he spent in active duty for our nation's military. At this difficult time of bereavement, I express my deepest regrets and sympathies to the family and friends of Michael Palatas.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4755) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this rule.

Unlike most appropriations bills that this House debates, this bill will be considered by a structured rule that had blocked me from offering two amendments.

Two amendments that, according to the parliamentarian, were germane and not subject to a point of order. In other words, if this appropriations bill was any other appropriations bill, I would of had the opportunity to offer my amendments.

My first amendment would have prohibited the use of funds on any vote that last longer than 17 minutes.

It is not bad enough that they will hold the vote open long enough to have it their way. What is worst is that they would not even let us debate the amendment in the first place. What are they so afraid of?

The second Amendment would have required conference committees to meet before the House can vote on a conference report.

Since they did not allow me to offer my amendment, I plan to introduce a bill to restore democracy to the House of Representative. Some of the key sections of the bill deal with what my amendments would have also addressed.

In all, this legislation will offer ten specific changes to the way this House has been operating under the Republican Majority. Like my amendments, these changes will help restore democracy to the United States Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOU  
ROLLENHAGEN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Lou Rollenhagen, and thank him for his dedication toward educating our youth in the Palisade, Colorado community. As the principal of Palisade High School, he has guided thousands of students toward their future aspirations. It is with great satisfaction and pride that I pay tribute to Lou for his many contributions to his community and state.

Lou attended Michigan State University and then went on to Western State College, where he became certified as a teacher. He took his first job at Palisade High School teaching Life Science before going on to become the counselor, the assistant principal, and the head football, wrestling, and basketball coach.

He has served as the Principal for over fifteen years and has succeeded in making many improvements for the school including

the addition of advanced placement classes and upgrading the music and athletics programs.

Mr. Speaker, Lou Rollenhagen maintains that the greatest reward in his job was knowing that his career has produced good teachers and students. He has demonstrated a love for public service that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to the Palisade High School community. Lou's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. Thanks for all your hard work Lou, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE TEXAS DELEGATION TO THE 2004 YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Texas delegation to the 2004 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs. The Youth Conference on National Affairs brings together the best and brightest students from across the country that was involved in the YMCA Youth and Government program. Youth and Government seeks to teach teenagers the process of learning about government through hands-on experiences and in-depth learning.

The YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs was held last week in Black Mountain, NC, and I am proud of each and every one of the delegates that did a wonderful job in representing the Lone Star State: Nathan Ball of Sugar Land, Skylar Brogdon of Fort Worth, Gina Bullock of Fort Worth, Spencer Colglazier of North Richland Hills, Rashad Deckard of Palestine, Whitney Ferguson of Houston, Delores "DeDee" Fowler of Beaumont, Michael Foley of Palestine, Garret Gibson of Damon, Morgan Gibson of Damon, Nathan Gonzalez of Benbrook, Kathleen Gully of Sugar Land, Stephanie Hinds of Houston, Jacob Holt of Katy, Melissa Hooper of Midland, Joshua Jemente of Ft. Worth, Robby Johnston of Roanoke, Cody Kilmeyer of Azle, Michelle McClathry of Ft. Worth, Holly Nichols of Sugar Land, Hunter Patterson of Garland, Anna Peters of Houston, Jillian Sheridan of Weatherford.

I would also like to sincerely thank the adult advisors that are accompanying the delegates at the conference. Without the kind service of these adults that give up so much of their free time, the conference would not be the stunning success that it is year in and year out. I would like to thank the Texas YMCA Youth and Government State Director Suzanne Mabie, John Reyes of the Houston YMCA, and Sue Six of Lake Country Christian School.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARGIE WILBUR

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life

and memory of Margie Wilbur who recently passed away. Margie was a devoted mother, and a valuable citizen to her Meeker, Colorado community. As her family and community mourn her passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional woman, and her many contributions to the community in which she lived.

After attending college Margie became a nurse and served during World War II. On a 1944 trip, stopping through Meeker, Colorado, she met George Robert Wilber and were married a year later. After moving to Meeker and giving birth to three daughters, Margie went to work for the Rio Blanco County Clerks Office. In her twenty-eight years working for the courthouse, she was both a deputy county clerk and county vital statistician.

Margie was a very active and devoted member of her community. During her life she was an active member of the St. James Church, and a past president of both the Meeker Woman's Club, and the Moffat District of the Federated Woman's Clubs. Margie served as president of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society. She worked tirelessly on the Meeker Community Concert Board, was a board chairman for the Last Frontier Group and a member of the Meeker Library Board, as well as the Three Rivers Library System.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and memory of Margie Wilbur. My heart goes out to her family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement. Margie lived an extraordinary life and she will be sorely missed.

IN HONOR OF LA SOCIEDAD HIJOS DE PALMEIRA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira for its numerous contributions to the community, and its dedication to the City of Palmeira, Spain. On Wednesday, July 14, 2004, the members of La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira will celebrate the 75th anniversary by traveling to the City of Palmeira, Spain.

La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira was established in April 1929 by a group of immigrants from Palmeira, Spain. The original members of the organization were: D. Andres Paisal Ramos, President; Vicente Franco Paisal, Vice-President; Jesus Gonzalez, Secretary; Andres Santiago Gomez, Vice-Secretary; Antonio Rodriguez Martinez, Treasurer; and Pedro Gomez Pazos, Andres Santiago Rodriguez, Andres Gago Fernandez, and Francisco Blanco. La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira was founded to establish a support network for those who had made the journey from Palmeira, Spain to the United States, and also to preserve their culture and customs.

In its 75 years of existence, La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira has been a pillar of community service throughout Newark. As the city continues to diversify, La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira has served as a center for promoting Spanish culture, and has provided a place to keep Spanish cultural and traditions alive.

La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira has not only been active in the United States, but also in

Palmeira, Spain. Through the hard work and dedication of the past and present members, La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira was able to establish a state of the art recreational center in their native city. This center has provided the City of Palmeira with resources that were previously not available to its residents.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira for its distinguished public service, its dedication to promoting Spanish culture in the City of Newark, and its continued efforts to assist the people of Palmeira, Spain.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RALPH WADLEIGH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and pay tribute today to Otero Judge Ralph Wadleigh of La Junta, Colorado. After sixteen years of dedicated service, Judge Wadleigh is retiring from the bench. I would like to join my colleagues in honoring Ralph's work before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Although he will be remembered for his time spent overseeing the law as a county judge, he spent many years prior to his tenure on the bench as a faithful civil servant. He previously worked as the deputy district attorney, the city attorney, and the attorney representing the local school board. Recently he announced he would step down from full time service as an Otero County Judge, but Ralph still desires to remain an active civil servant. He has accepted a part-time position to serve as a senior judge for parts of southeastern Colorado. This position will provide him an opportunity to serve sixty days per year, where he will work as a substitute presiding judge for several counties throughout his area.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph's dedication to justice and the people of Otero County certainly deserves recognition before this body of Congress and this nation. Over the years, he has shown he is a friend of justice, and I am grateful for his commitment to his fellow citizens. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

SUPPORT VOTER FREEDOM ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, political operatives across the country are using state ballot access laws to deny voters the opportunity to support independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader. For example, one New York election lawyer has publicly stated that partisan election lawyers should take advantage of New York's complex and costly ballot access procedures to keep Mr. Nader off the New York ballot. Meanwhile, a state party chairman in Arizona has hired a team of lawyers for the sole purpose of keeping Mr. Nader off the Arizona ballot.

The effort to keep Mr. Nader off the ballot shows how ballot access laws preserve the

two party monopoly over the political system by effectively disenfranchising supporters of third parties and independent candidates. While the campaign against Mr. Nader is an extreme case, supporters of the two party monopoly regularly use ballot access laws to keep third party and independent candidates off ballots. Even candidates able to comply with onerous ballot access rules must devote so many resources to simply getting on the ballot that their ability to communicate their ideas to the general public is severely limited. Perhaps the ballot access laws are one reason why voter turnout has been declining over the past few decades. After all, almost 42% of eligible voters have either not registered to vote or have registered as something other than Democrat or Republican.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of federal elections. Thus, ballot access is one of the few areas where Congress has explicit Constitutional authority to establish national standards. In order to open up the political process, I have introduced the Voter Freedom Act (HR 1941). HR 1941 established uniform standards for ballot access so third party and independent candidates can at last compete on a level playing field.

The blatant attempt by a major party to keep Ralph Nader off state ballots demonstrates how restrictive ballot access laws are used to preserve a political monopoly, limit voters' choices, and deny the rights of millions of Americans who support third parties and independent candidates an opportunity to effectively participate in the political process. I call upon my colleagues to remedy this situation by supporting my Voter Freedom Act.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in this chamber on July 12, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 359, 361 and 362 and "no" on rollcall vote 360.

#### HONORING PORT OF OAKLAND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TAY YOSHITANI

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements of retiring Port of Oakland Executive Director Tay Yoshitani.

Since his graduation from the United States Military Academy and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Mr. Yoshitani's distinguished career has included the direction of the ports of several major cities. After serving as the Deputy Director of the Port of Los Angeles for six years, he became the Director of the Port of Maryland Administration in 1995. There he served with distinction until joining the Port of Oakland in 1998

as Deputy Executive Director, and later becoming Executive Director in October 2001.

As the Executive Director of the Port of Oakland, Mr. Yoshitani directed a staff of over six hundred employees and oversaw the management of the Oakland International Airport, the Oakland Seaport, and the historic Jack London Square. He has done an outstanding job managing not only the functions of the Port itself, but has also consistently demonstrated his commitment to sustainable development as a business goal through his pursuit of social equity and environmental responsibility in addition to economic vitality. In keeping with these principles, he established a new division at the Port, the Social Responsibility Division, which ensures greater access to jobs and business opportunities for the local community. Furthermore, Mr. Yoshitani is responsible for the establishment of a variety of other ground-breaking initiatives, such as the Public Art Program and Policy, the Port's sustainability Task Force, and the Annual Good Neighbor Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations delivering outstanding community service.

During his tenure as Executive Director, Mr. Yoshitani has also presided over the completion of a number of infrastructural improvements to all three Port divisions. In addition to supporting the Estuary Plan by initiating real estate and waterfront development in underutilized areas, he also presided over the completion of enlarged marine terminals, as well as the initiation of the construction of the Oakland International Airport's Terminal Improvement Program, the largest aviation project in the airport's 77-year history. Furthermore, under Mr. Yoshitani's direction, the Port has received over one hundred million dollars in Federal funding for various infrastructural improvements.

On July 14, 2004, Mr. Yoshitani will be honored in Oakland, California on the occasion of his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to commend his exceptional achievements not only in the areas of Port economic growth and development, but also for his role as a leader in the areas of social responsibility and sustainable business practices. Mr. Yoshitani has distinguished himself as an exceptional business and civic leader, whose contributions have greatly enriched our community.

#### IN MEMORY OF EDILITH ECKART

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edlith Eckart, who died June 16, 2004 in Humboldt County, California at the age of eighty-four.

Edlith Eckart was born in Brooklyn, the daughter of Norwegian immigrants. She was a teacher prior to World War II then served her country in the U.S. Navy as a WAVE Lieutenant Junior Grade during that war. After the war she moved to New Orleans with her family where she began her lifelong vocation as an activist for peace and civil rights. She was an ardent and effective environmentalist who was often called as an expert witness in court cases.

Her belief in the concept of a peaceful world was absolute. She was an activist extraordinaire, a Veteran for Peace, a columnist, a citizen diplomat, a member of Women in Black, a biologist, a devoted parent, grandparent and world traveler. She led fifteen trips to the Soviet Union, visited Israel and Palestine several times and in 1995 she went to Japan for ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Characteristically, she engaged in civil disobedience and joined international organizations to help deliver \$4 million worth of medicines to Iraqi hospitals following the first Gulf War. She was the co-chair of the Veterans for Peace "Iraq Water Project," which resulted in the building of a number of water treatment plants in rural Iraq.

She believed in the power of individuals to forcefully speak out for peace and justice, connect with the people of other countries in the pursuit of those ideals and she worked valiantly to relieve suffering wherever she found it.

Referring to herself as a contemplative activist, her garden was listed with the Sanctuary Garden Project, a nation wide network of backyard sanctuaries.

Edlith Eckart received many national awards for her friendship building in the Soviet Union, Palestine, Iraq, as well as the Veterans for Peace Presidents Award. She was also awarded the Physician's for Social Responsibility "Broad Street Pump Award." The American Association of University Women honored her during Women's History Month in 1998.

She was an inspiration; a humanitarian and she left a distinguished legacy to us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Edlith Eckart for her unwavering commitment to the ideals and values that sustain our great country.

#### IN HONOR OF THE BRAVERY OF THE NIAGARA FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW YORK STATE PARK POLICE

### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroes of the Niagara Falls Fire Department and the New York State Park Police. Last Sunday evening, these brave first responders rescued a woman on the verge of ending her own life at the edge of the vast Niagara Falls. Without hesitation, these men put their own lives in danger to save another.

Niagara Falls is one of the greatest natural treasures on earth. One of the largest waterfalls in the world, Niagara Falls plunges a dramatic 180 feet, or 16 stories. It is a wondrous site that attracts millions of tourists every year. But with its immense beauty comes immense dangers. Over the years, police and fire personnel in Niagara Falls have performed daring rescues to save people who have gotten too close to the edge.

On Sunday evening, a suicidal woman ventured out to a ledge just a few feet from the edge of the mighty falls. Responding first to the scene, New York State Park Police officers Scott Durham and Timothy Coulombe

kept the woman calm until rescue personnel from the Niagara Falls Fire Department arrived.

State Park Police Lieutenant Patrick Moriarty, Niagara Falls Fire Battalion Chief John Jacoby, and Niagara Falls firefighters Gary Carella and David Beahen all made their way out onto the ledge, just feet from the edge. Mr. Carella spoke to the woman with Mr. Beahen securing him from behind. As the woman suddenly began to slide towards the falls, Mr. Carella lunged to seize her, while Mr. Beahen lunged to catch him. They safely brought the woman to shore amid the cheers of dozens of onlookers who had gathered to watch this dramatic rescue.

I want to thank these men, and the personnel from Engine 8, Engine 4, Truck 1 and Rescue 1 who assisted them, for their astounding courage. The rescue only reaffirms what we already know: that the first responders of Niagara County are some of the finest. We should all feel safer knowing that that these brave men and women do such a stellar job, around the clock. I applaud and admire their valor and altruism.

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TRIBUTE TO LI-PEI WU

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WU and I rise today to ask our colleagues to join in saluting Mr. Li-Pei Wu, Chairman Emeritus and Director of GBC Bancorp, and the new Presidential Policy Advisor to Taiwan's President Chen Shu-Bian. He is a remarkable man with a myriad of accomplishments.

Mr. Wu has enjoyed a distinguished and successful career as a banking executive. He served as CFO of the National Bank of Alaska and President of Alaska National Bank of the North. In 1982, Mr. Wu took the helm of General Bank in Los Angeles. Under his able leadership, both General Bank and its holding company, GBC Bancorp, developed into industry leaders.

Mr. Wu was born in Changhwa, Taiwan, one of the poorest communities in Taiwan. Despite facing political oppression, he earned a B.A. in Economics from National Taiwan University and taught at the Kwanglon Business School. After his brother was sent to prison by members of the Nationalist Party, Wu left Taiwan to earn his MBA at Fort Hays State University. He struggled with the English language, but his determination and business acumen soon landed him important positions in Alaska's largest financial institution, the National Bank of Alaska.

Li-Pei Wu's accomplishments go far beyond the business world. For more than 35 years he has dedicated his time and energy to advocate for democracy and human rights in Taiwan. He is the founder and chairman of the Formosa Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan public interest group that seeks to foster an environment of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, while also promoting understanding and friendship between Taiwan and the United States. He was the founding president of the Taiwanese American Citizen League, which has grown from one to twelve

chapters nationwide. He has worked tirelessly to help Taiwanese-Americans achieve success and leadership opportunities in American politics, culture, and society. In addition, he serves as an honorary member of the Pacific Council on International Policy and as a Board of Advisors member for the Asia Society of Los Angeles.

Mr. Wu's commitment to human rights, peace, and economic success has been widely recognized. He is the proud recipient of the 1998 Ernst & Young Greater Los Angeles Entrepreneur of the Year Award and has been asked to teach at the University of Cambridge as a Distinguished Guest Lecturer in the school's Department of Oriental Studies. He has served as a delegate to Taiwan's National Affairs Summit at the direct invitation of Taiwan's President Lee Tung-hui. In 1990, he was the recipient of the Outstanding Entrepreneur Award bestowed on him by the National Association of Investment Companies.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring and thanking Mr. Li-Pei Wu for his outstanding contributions to our community and for his steadfast commitment to human rights and strong relations between the United States and Taiwan.

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HONORING COLONEL DANIEL E. FURTADO

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many contributions and accomplishments of Colonel Daniel E. Furtado on his retirement from the U.S. Army Reserve, after 38 years of devoted service including the prestigious command of the 5th Brigade, 104th Division. Colonel Furtado has dedicated over 30 years to his community and our nation.

Colonel Furtado is a native of Campbell, California and has been very active in civic and community affairs, having served both as mayor and city councilmember of Campbell. Through his many contributions to education, health, and national security, Colonel Furtado has impacted the lives of many and recently was selected as Citizen of the Year for the City of Campbell for the year 2000.

Colonel Daniel Furtado enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1963, while enrolled in ROTC. After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Jose State University in Applied Arts and Sciences, Colonel Furtado received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of San Francisco. From 1969 to 1971, he worked in Houston, Texas as Chief of the Pharmacology Section at the Academy of Health Sciences, Fort Sam. Later he worked in Palo Alto, CA as clinical coordinator for the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Colonel Furtado was Co-Director of the Pharmacy at O'Connor Hospital at Campbell, CA from 1979 to 1980, when he was appointed Associated Director of the Primary Care Associate Program at Stanford University School of Medicine. He still teaches pharmacology and is currently Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Stanford and Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy at the University of California.

Colonel Furtado has been a volunteer for the American Heart Association for over 25 years, and has served as President and on the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Chapter. His significant public service record is exemplified through the multitude of service awards that he has received, including the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Gold Hourglass Device, and the Army Service Ribbon. Colonel Furtado is a member of the Emergency Preparedness Council of Santa Clara County and the Immediate Past Chairs of both the West Valley Sanitation District Board of Directors and the County Library Joint Powers Authority. Miraculously, Colonel Furtado also finds time to serve on the Homeland Security Task Force, the Public Safety Committee of the National League of Cities, and the Public Safety Committee of the League of California Cities.

Colonel Furtado's engaged assistance to the community and his many contributions to society have made him a distinguished member of Santa Clara County. His hard work and dedication toward the protection of our nation through military service make him a role model for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Colonel Daniel E. Furtado for his ongoing efforts on behalf of his community and for his numerous accomplishments in the fields of education, health, community and military service.

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A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD JONES JR.

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Richard Jones Jr. in recognition of contributions to the community through his professional work and civic endeavors.

Richard is a police officer in the New York City Police Department and is assigned to the Transit Division's Kings County Task Force. He is also an independent associate for Pre-paid Legal Services.

A Bedford Stuyvesant resident, Richard is the father of three lovely children. Shawntice is an honor student. His two active sons are Sirrichard and Khaliq. Richard's devotion to his family is unmatched.

Richard is a founding member of the civic association; "Black Men Who Care Inc.," which was founded in 1998 to creatively occupy the spare time of the youths residing in Brooklyn. During the winter, the organization developed a mentorship program to help youth after school. This program targeted young men between the ages of 12 and 15. In spite of the organization's name, it has come to include members of all races and both genders.

Richard is the Treasurer and Director of Sports and Recreation. Each week, he spends many hours with the organization, planning and coordinating future activities. The organization emphasizes etiquette, self-respect, respect for one's neighborhood, and respect for elders. For his continued community service, Richard received the Isaac Liberman Service Award in 1999 from the Hundred Year Association of New York.

As an independent associate with Pre-paid Legal Services, Richard is providing an opportunity for hard working middle class people to

obtain quality legal services. With the help of Richard's efforts, more people, regardless of their income status, will have access to quality attorneys.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Jones Jr. has dedicated his time to improving the community as a member of law enforcement and a civic leader. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, today I rise on behalf of the hard-working farm families of Southwest Georgia who have more than earned the economic assistance that a tobacco buy-out would provide.

By introducing this amendment, my colleagues seek to make a statement about the tobacco industry as a whole. In reality they are punishing American farmers who have already suffered the loss of more than fifty percent of their income. A tobacco buyout does not provide an incentive to grow tobacco nor does it get the U.S. Government out of the tobacco growing industry, rather it provides our farmers with an honest chance to survive.

Those of us representing American tobacco growers are in the best position to understand the unique importance of tobacco reform. We have been working on a bipartisan basis for over two years to end the depression-era price support system that, despite severe cuts in quotas and the even greater economic losses of our farm families, has not been touched in nearly 18 years. This amendment obstructs our reform efforts and complicates the chances of any real solution. Our farmers deserve better.

I urge my colleagues not to support this amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN C. WHITEHEAD

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of John C. Whitehead for his continued dedication to public service.

John was born in East New York and raised in Bedford Stuyvesant by his loving parents, Jesse and Mary. The ninth of twelve children, he was educated in the New York public school system.

John previously served his country proudly as a member of the United States Army and Reserves.

He has vast experience with many civic groups and community-based organizations. John is a founding member of the youth organization Black Men Who Care. He is the Chief Executive Officer and an Executive Board Member. He is a member of the Men's Caucus for Congressman Ed TOWNS where he is a Congressional diplomat and Chairman of this year's awards dinner. John is also an executive board member of Community Board No. 5 which serves East New York.

John is deeply involved with a number of community organizations. He is an Advisory Board Member of NIA Theatrical Production Company and New York City Works, a Special Advisor to the Committee To Honor Black Heroes, and a member of Black Watch. John has served as a supervisor and youth counselor for the Vanguard Urban Improvement Association, which was founded by Albert Vann (City Councilman and Former Assemblyman), and is the former vice-president of the Spring Creek Tenants Association.

John is currently employed by the New York City Department of Sanitation as well as being a licensed paralegal. He has served as Vice-President of the United States Steel Workers Local No. 2, and has worked as a security supervisor for Burns Security.

John is a single parent of six wonderful children: John Jr., Jeffrey, Jatina, Dakeem, Jay and Justin. By his example of community service, love of neighbor and a strong work ethic, he strives to teach his children that they can be successful in any endeavor they undertake. John's greatest focus and concern is to be the voice for those hard-working taxpayers who are not being heard. They need and deserve someone to ensure the delivery of quality services to their community.

Mr. Speaker, John C. Whitehead has continued to strengthen and improve the community through his wide array of civic activities. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN HONOR OF VIRGIL BLANCO

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virgil Blanco on being selected as a Fulbright Scholar for 2004. For his remarkable achievement, Mr. Blanco was honored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders on Thursday, May 20, 2004, at Middlesex County Administration Building in New Brunswick, NJ.

Mr. Blanco, a professor of modern languages and department chairman and director of the Center for International Education at Middlesex County Community College, has been selected as a 2004 Fulbright Scholar Program recipient. The Fulbright Scholar Program is an honor bestowed upon only 800 American faculty and professionals, by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the U.S. Department of State. Mr. Blanco recently spent 3 weeks visiting French and German post-secondary educational institutions, learn-

ing in-depth their educational system. He also lectured about community colleges and immigrant students in the United States.

Mr. Blanco has been an active member in his community. He was founder and chairman of the New Jersey Collegiate Consortium for International Education, and also served as chairman of the New Jersey World Trade Association, co-chairman of the New Jersey World Trade Conference, and member of the State Advisory Committee on Bilingual Education.

For his outstanding research and dedicated community service, Mr. Blanco has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, such as the N.J. World Trade Council Education Award, the Above and Beyond Award for Teaching Excellence, and the N.J. Department of Labor and Industry Research Grant.

Mr. Blanco received his bachelor's degree from the University of Miami, a master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and his post-doctorate degree from the University of Madrid.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Virgil Blanco for his continued pursuit of educational excellence, and for his dedicated service to the students of Middlesex County Community College.

A TRIBUTE TO CONSTANTINE LINCOLN STEWART

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Constantine Lincoln Stewart for his public service for the City of New York and his volunteer efforts to educate our children.

Lincoln, as he is more affectionately known, currently serves as a senior policy advisor in the Office of Policy Management with the New York City Comptroller's Office. As a Senior Policy Advisor, he conducts research and analyzes public policy issues affecting education, the infrastructure, public safety, and technology. He has worked in the Comptroller's Office for the last 17 years.

Lincoln is also an adjunct professor at York College in Jamaica, New York. He tutors students of all ages throughout the city. He enjoys the opportunity to be a positive influence on young people. Lincoln especially likes working with students in the areas of math and science. These areas are traditionally viewed as problematic for women and people of color. Lincoln emphasizes that it is the student's duty to take responsibility for his or her own education. He often tells his students that the international community is providing opportunities for ambitious African-American, Latino, female and immigrant youths.

Lincoln was born in Jamaica. He is the second of Samuel and Lethe's five children. He received his degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of the West Indies. After graduating, he immigrated to Brooklyn in 1980. He quickly resettled in West Texas after accepting an offer as a chemical engineer with the Phillips Petroleum Company. Two years later, he returned to Brooklyn and attended Baruch College where he earned his Masters of Business Administration.

Lincoln is the loving husband of Charmanie Harris Stewart, his wife, partner, and friend for

17 years. He is the proud father of three gifted children: Lincoln, Jr. is currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps; Anika is an honors student; and Din, his youngest son, attends St. Raymond's Catholic School.

Mr. Speaker, Constantine Lincoln Stewart has dedicated his professional career to serving his community while still finding time to tutor children throughout the area. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN MEMORY OF LEDA JELINEK

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Leda Jelinek who passed away June 7, 2004. She served the country as a distinguished member of the Army Nurse Corps for 30 years until her retirement at Fort Ord in 1971. Col. Jelinek is survived by her sister, Veva Fitzgerald of Monterey and many friends who loved her.

Born in Bonesteel, South Dakota, Leda entered nurse's training at the Hospital of St. Vincent's in Sioux City, Iowa. After completing the program with distinction, Leda began a long and remarkable nursing career. She was commissioned by the Army Nurses Corps in 1941 and subsequently served at a plethora of Army hospitals throughout the United States. In addition, she served in Korea, Germany and Japan. General George Marshall was one of her many patients on the VIP floor of Walter Reed Hospital in 1953. She was a Chief Nurse Anesthetist before her promotion to Major whence she became the Director of the Advanced Medical Specialist School at Fort Bragg. Upon her retirement and during her distinguished career Leda received the Army of Occupation Medal (Japan), American Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Legion of Merit, the American Defense Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Col. Jelinek was an ardent supporter of the Democratic Party and was a Jimmy Carter delegate at the National Democratic Convention of 1976. Former Congressman Leon Panetta had her as a campaign worker on numerous campaigns. She was affiliated with Monterey County Democratic Party and the Women's Democratic Club.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Leda's many accomplishments, and I commend her for her lifelong dedication to her community and friends. She was a remarkable figure, and her memory will live on in the many people whose lives she has touched. I join the Monterey Bay community, and friends and family in honoring this truly admirable woman and friend for all of her lifelong achievements.

A TRIBUTE TO NORMA CIRINO

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Norma Cirino in recognition of her public serv-

ice and volunteer efforts to strengthen the community.

Norma has worked for the New York City Department of Probation for five years. In this short time, she has made an unforgettable mark on the Department and the East New York community. She was born and raised in East New York.

Norma is well known in her "home neighborhood" of East New York. She attends all of the 75th Precinct Council, Community Board #5, and Cabinet meetings. She serves on several boards of community organizations. In 2000, she created the annual Department of Probation "East New York Family Day." This event gathers law enforcement, elected officials and community residents at Thomas Jefferson Field for a great day of family fun. This event has drawn over 1,000 participants each year. More than 150 sponsors and many community organizations have made this event possible at no cost to the public. Norma has also developed "Afternoon with Santa." This event is held during the Christmas season and involves probation officers reading stories and distributing toys to the children of the Cypress Hills Housing Development.

Norma consistently conducts community outreach and develops affiliations with community organizations and residents. Hundreds of East New Yorkers have been employed, received health services or educational opportunities through referrals received from Norma.

Norma has linked community-based organizations to community service work, crews. The work performed by these crews has improved the quality of life in East New York. She has also increased the community's voice in the criminal justice system by helping people report crimes and connecting them with criminal justice services. Finally, she has helped change the community's perception of law enforcement through her affiliation with the U.S. Department of Justice's Weed and Seed program.

Norma graduated from Maxwell High School. She takes pride in the East New York community where she lives with her daughter Stephanie, who is the light of her eyes. Her sisters, Lydia and Rosa, her brother, Anthony, all of her nieces and nephews, and her mother live in the community as well.

Mr. Speaker, Norma Cirino has dedicated her time to improving the community through both her professional and volunteer efforts. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcalls 359 and 360. I would have voted yes on rollcalls 361 and 362.

### TAX REFORM

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, public distrust. That is the main reason why we urgently need fundamental tax reform.

More and more Americans distrust the current tax system because they perceive it as unfair. Are they wrong? No. Lower and middle class Americans bear a disproportionate tax burden. Small businesses bear a great compliance burden. That is unfair.

Does fairness in our tax system matter? Yes, it matters because tax collection depends on voluntary compliance. And in a democracy like ours, people contribute private resources to provide the public goods and services we deem appropriate as a community, including helping those not able fend for themselves.

In America, paying taxes embodies a civic relationship of mutual responsibility, and people's obligation to pay them is as legitimate as any other public duty.

So, I am glad that we are beginning this discussion of comprehensive tax reform—an issue that will only become more important for us in Congress.

Let me offer the following five points to consider as we discuss this important issue:

First, fundamental tax reform is a necessity. The current tax system is complicated, inefficient, and unfair. Its unpopularity is warranted, and that is a problem because that breeds distrust.

The tax code must be simplified in order to eliminate wasted time and money spent on compliance. For example, the average taxpayer with a self-employed status has the greatest compliance burden in terms of tax preparation—59 hours.

Furthermore, the complexity of the tax code is evident by the fact that small businesses overpaid their taxes by \$18 billion in 2000 and 2001 because of return errors, according to a GAO report. Small businesses unfairly bear the burden of the tax code's complexity simply because they do not have the financial resources to hire sophisticated tax advisors.

Second, simplification can occur only with fundamental tax reform. This is clear after decades of incrementalism. We know that tax reform cannot be done in a piecemeal fashion. The current tax system is flawed at its root. Hard-working, middle-income class people bear the largest burden in our current tax system.

Third, fundamental tax reform must focus on the tax base. Our tax base is derived from total income. However, this is complicated by the bewildering array of adjustments, deductions, credits, omissions, and mismeasurements. This undermines the fairness of our tax system. Therefore, fundamental tax reform must focus on the issue of the tax base in order to achieve equity, efficiency, simplicity, and accountability.

Fourth, the tax code must encourage entrepreneurship. Small businesses provide our economy's foundation. They need a tax system that frees resources for investment and ensures affordable capital. We must support small businesses, which make up the backbone of our economy.

Fifth, fundamental tax reform is possible. Tax reform is not an easy task. However, the

American public demands it. They see our tax system as unfair, and they are right. As it was in the mid-1980s, the time is ripe to begin taking serious steps towards achieving fundamental tax reform. We must listen to our constituents and be up to task to implementing a fair tax system.

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TAX REFORM

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the increasing complexity in the tax code that bogs down small businesses in my district.

Shortly after President Bush took office in 2001, he declared, "Americans want our tax

code to be reasonable and simple and fair. These are goals that unite our country, and these are goals that have shaped my plan." I could not agree more with the President's words, but unfortunately his actions have not matched his rhetoric.

Over the past three and a half years, the federal income tax code has grown by more than 10,000 pages due to 227 changes, not including the 109 proposed tax changes in the manufacturing tax bill that recently passed the House. Instead of helping small businesses create jobs in America, this legislation actually encourages companies to move workers abroad.

According to the IRS, small businesses and self-employed taxpayers now spend an average of nearly 60 hours on tax preparation. That means a business owner or employee uses more than a full work week compiling information and filling out tax forms rather than working to grow the business.

A recent GAO study concluded that small businesses overpay their taxes by billions of dollars per year because of tax return errors. Even tax preparation professionals make errors because the code is too complicated to know about every single available deduction.

Republicans have been so preoccupied with cutting taxes that they have not taken into account the burden this new complexity causes for taxpayers. We need a simpler tax code that allows companies to spend less time filling out forms and more time on business.

While Republicans continuously speak about making tax simplification a reality, they have done nothing but add to the misunderstanding and complexity. I urge the adoption of legislation to reduce the paperwork burden on our small businesses so that they can concentrate on their work, not deciphering the tax code.