

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 42ND INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago as it celebrates the 42nd anniversary of its Independence.

Trinidad was settled in the late 1500s by the Spanish, who annihilated the indigenous Arawak and Carib Indian populations on the island. It remained under Spanish rule until the British, enticed by the sugar and cocoa plantations throughout the island, captured it in 1797.

Tobago had a more unsteady development, changing hands over 22 times as the French, Dutch, and British fought over to possess it. Tobago was finally ceded to Great Britain in 1814, and Trinidad and Tobago were incorporated into a single colony in 1888.

Valued for its sugar during the 19th Century, Trinidad became a key oil interest for the British the 20th Century. Oil was discovered in three areas in Trinidad, and oil exports to Britain increased steadily throughout the century, buoyed by the advent of the automobile and the conversion of the British Navy from coal to oil.

In 1941 Britain permitted the United States to establish military bases in Trinidad in exchange for 50 destroyers given to the British government. This began an important period in the country; the G.I.s brought American money and culture to the island, and the Trinidadian people were steadily pulled away from their traditional British loyalties. The Marines also helped construct numerous roads in Trinidad, including the important Northern Coast Road, which is still functional today.

A nascent movement for independence was born in Trinidad and Tobago in the 1950s, when Eric Williams, a Ph.D. from Howard University, returned to his native country and founded the People's National Movement (PNM). The PNM prevailed in the 1956 national elections, and Dr. Williams became the chief minister of the country from 1956 to 1959, premier from 1959 to 1962, and prime minister from 1962 to 1981. It was Williams who led Trinidad and Tobago into full independence within the Commonwealth in 1962, and he is now considered the father of independent Trinidad and Tobago. Williams died while in office on March 29, 1981.

Trinidad and Tobago joined the United Nations and the Commonwealth immediately after its independence, and in 1967 it became the first Commonwealth country to join the Organization of American States (OAS).

Trinidad and Tobago has enjoyed cordial relations with the United States since independence. U.S. investment in Trinidad and Tobago is nearly two billion dollars, and Trinidad is the

leading exporter of liquefied natural gas to the U.S. Trinidad is also active in the U.S.-initiated Summit of the Americas process and fully supports the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Further, many U.S. citizens and permanent residents call Trinidad and Tobago home, and keep strong cultural ties to their country of origin. Nearly 20,000 U.S. citizens visit Trinidad and Tobago for vacation or business every year, and over 2,700 American citizens are residents of the country. Americans celebrate the history and culture of Trinidad and Tobago with annual carnivals held in numerous cities across the U.S., with a major celebration occurring in Brooklyn every Labor Day.

A leading member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and the most industrialized nation in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago has become a symbol of what Caribbean countries can achieve if they have the opportunities and wherewithal to become economically successful and socially stable.

As Trinidad and Tobago celebrates the 42nd anniversary of its independence, let us join in honoring the achievements of a country that overcame many obstacles to reach heights of prosperity and stability.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EMERSON SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Emerson School in Grand Junction, Colorado. This school has educated students from Grand Junction for over a century and I am proud to join my colleagues here today before this body of Congress and this nation in recognizing this tremendous institution.

The Emerson School is the oldest building still owned by the in Mesa County Valley School District 51 that is still standing. It was constructed in 1903 during the initial phases of Grand Junction's planning when the town fathers divided the area into quarters and set aside land in each one for a park and a school. Although the school went through some name changes, and is now being used for administration offices, it has for the majority of its existence been reserved for elementary school students.

Mr. Speaker, Emerson School is an institution in Grand Junction that has been used for the important role of educating the youth of Colorado. Their presence in Grand Junction has been a wonderful benefit to the community and the country as these young children go on to future aspirations throughout our great country. I am honored to recognize Emerson School before this body and this nation for their devotion and commitment to education. Congratulations on your celebration of

a century of service and thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

HONORING BRANDON J. McDANIEL FOR HIS NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable actions of Brandon J. McDaniel, for which he was duly awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Corporal McDaniel received the award for superior performance of his duties as an avionics technician, Marine Attack Squadron 231, Detachment Bravo, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, on October 22, 2003. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit was tasked with providing defensive counter air support to Air Force One and the President of the United States during his October visit to Bali, Indonesia. After an AV-8B was forced to return to the ship due to a generator malfunction, Corporal McDaniel proactively removed key components from another AV-8B and when the disabled aircraft landed, he quickly removed the faulty components and reinstalled serviceable components, enabling the aircraft to be returned to the air within an hour.

His quick thinking and sound decision-making directly contributed to the success of the mission and protection of the President during his Far East tour. Corporal McDaniel's initiative and selfless devotion to duty exhibited the highest standards of the Marine Corps and Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Corporal Brandon McDaniel on his medal and commend him for his professional achievement and outstanding service to our Nation.

THE INDIAN COUNTRY EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Indian Country Educational Empowerment Act of 2004. This Act will facilitate economic growth and development in Indian Country by dramatically increasing the incentives for individuals with advanced degrees to work within and for Indian Country.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that Native Americans continue to rank at the bottom of every indicator of social and economic well-being in America. Unemployment continues to average near 50 percent in Indian Country and hovers well over 90 percent on many Reservations. Indian Country continues to

• 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.

have some of the highest rates of poverty, poorest health, highest mortality rates, and lowest levels of educational achievement in the United States.

A unique legal and political relationship exists between the United States and Indian tribes that is reflected in the Constitution, various treaties, Federal statutes, Supreme Court decisions, and executive agreements. This creates a responsibility for the federal government to facilitate and complement tribal governments' efforts to improve the quality of life for Native Americans and encourage economic development in Indian Country. This bill does just that.

Numerous external efforts at economic development in Indian Country have proven unsuccessful. The most successful efforts have been initiated from within native communities themselves. Economic development efforts that empower native communities and give them the tools to make their own decisions should be encouraged and pursued.

I believe that education and economic development go hand-in-hand in Indian Country. Indeed, higher education is a fundamental form of economic development. Yet, an uneducated workforce continues to be a cyclical obstacle to economic growth in Indian Country.

The cycle is vicious. Businesses are often unwilling to locate in to Indian Country because of the lack of an educated workforce and Native American youth see little value in an advanced degree because there are no jobs on the Reservation that would reward one. Those native youth that do obtain a higher education often do not return to their communities because there are no jobs.

Higher education is costly to attain. As college and graduate school costs continue to swell, students are increasingly shouldering high levels of debt to pay for a college education. In fact, thirty-nine percent of student borrowers now graduate with levels of debt that require monthly payments in excess of eight percent of their total monthly incomes.

Loan repayment assistance for higher education graduates choosing to work in Indian Country will help break this cycle of poverty and promote economic development. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE
CRYER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, all too often as I watch the evening news or open the paper, I am bombarded with stories of teens going down the wrong path. Today, I have the pleasure of celebrating a teen from my district, Caroline Cryer, who is excelling as an athlete and a student.

Caroline, who is the captain of the Cherry Creek lacrosse team, has been named All-American for the second-straight year. This past spring the senior was second in the state in assists (43) and points (101) after winning her third state championship in lacrosse. In addition, she was named both the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post player-of-

the-year and the Denver Post/Denver Athletic Club High School Student-Athlete of the Year.

Lacrosse is not the only sport Caroline has shown a talent for; she has excelled in both varsity field hockey and varsity basketball. She won a state championship in 2002 for varsity field hockey.

While participating in these extracurricular activities, Caroline has maintained a 3.76 GPA and graduated with the highest honor roll honors. She has decided to attend Duke University this fall, where she is sure to succeed after taking four college AP tests.

Mr. Speaker, with students like Caroline Cryer in our communities, the next generation promises to do great things. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Caroline here today, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DAVID
UETTERLING ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS ELECTION TO STATE
COMMANDER OF THE OHIO DIS-
ABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mr. David Uetterling of Defiance, Ohio on the occasion of his election as state commander of the Ohio Disabled American Veterans.

David Uetterling has a lifelong record of service to the people of Ohio and the people of America. David entered the United States Army in 1965 and served an 18-month tour of duty in Vietnam. David was injured while serving his country in Vietnam.

A resident of Defiance, Ohio, David has been a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Defiance Chapter 36 since 1982. He served 4 years as commander of the Defiance chapter. David has held various DAV offices at the state level and most recently served as bingo chairman and adjutant/treasurer.

During the 83rd Annual State Convention from June 10–12 in Dublin, Ohio, David Uetterling was unanimously elected state commander of the Ohio Disabled American Veterans, an organization comprised of more than 48,000 veterans. In addition to his service in the DAV, David is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, ELKS, and American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, the service of our disabled veterans is vital to the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. David Uetterling has effectively displayed leadership to his community through service to the many veterans organizations in which he is involved. His passion to advance the issues that affect veterans most makes him a model citizen of the Fifth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to David Uetterling. Our communities benefit greatly through his service. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize David Uetterling's great achievement. We wish David and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARK
BURGET

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Mark Burget of Boulder, Colorado and his hard work to advance the goals of The Nature Conservancy. Recently, Mark announced he would be leaving his position as the Colorado Director of the Nature Conservancy and moving on to The Nature Conservancy Director of the Global Priority Group. As he moves on in his career, I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Mark spent his childhood in Chester County, Pennsylvania. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, and his master's in business and Juris Doctoris degree from the University of Virginia, he began his work for the Nature Conservancy in 1992. Soon after, he accepted the appointment as Colorado State Director for the Nature Conservancy. He was Colorado Director for eleven years, where he worked hard to protect 416,000 acres of natural land in Colorado. His new position with the Nature Conservancy will be the Director of the Global Priority Group, where he will work to identify and to act on the most urgent needs for conservation across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Mike will serve The Nature Conservancy well in his new capacity. He has already done much to protect natural lands in the state of Colorado, and I am confident he will continue to build upon this proud legacy. I congratulate Mike on his new job and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. COAST GUARD
CUTTER "MACKINAW"

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary vessel stationed in my district. For the last 60 years, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* and her crew have sailed the northern Great Lakes, keeping these vital waters open and safe. On August 12, past and present crew members of the *Mackinaw* will gather in Cheboygan, Michigan to celebrate the ship they affectionately refer to as "Big Mack" or "Queen of the Seas," and its six decades of service to the State of Michigan and the United States.

In 1941, the United States Congress authorized the construction of a new ice breaker for the Great Lakes. Three years later, on December 20, 1944, the *Mackinaw* was commissioned in Toledo, Ohio and made its maiden voyage to its new home, Cheboygan, Michigan. At 290 feet long, the *Mackinaw* was, and is, the largest and most powerful Coast Guard vessel on the Great Lakes.

Today, there are still men and women in Cheboygan who remember the *Mackinaw's* arrival in their harbor when thousands gathered on Christmas Eve to welcome the new cutter to their city. Since then, the residents of

Cheboygan have taken enormous pride in the *Mackinaw* as the ship and her crew worked to keep shipping lanes open. In its first year of service, the ship opened waterways nearly six weeks ahead of schedule, which allowed vital cargo to reach its destination and kept our nation's war machine running at top capacity.

As the nation shifted to peacetime production, the *Mackinaw* kept up its wartime pace. It continued to break up ice several feet thick every spring to ensure the safe arrival of essential raw materials for the steel and auto industries of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. The *Mackinaw* has seen the extraordinary expansion of American industry, and made an extraordinary contribution to that expansion.

Mr. Speaker, my most fond memory of the *Mackinaw* is the bitterly cold winter of 1993–1994. During that winter, the *Mackinaw* showed her brute ice-breaking strength time and time again. The *Mackinaw* freed countless vessels from frozen icy impasses. She has rescued stranded boaters, provided safe passage, and even rescued animals in peril.

Staff of the *Mackinaw* so admire the vessel and the Cheboygan community that they gather every five years for a reunion of current and past shipmates.

Mr. Speaker, the *Mackinaw* and her crew have played a role not only in national and international commerce, but also in more local relationships. The crew of the *Mackinaw* has long been an important part of the community in Cheboygan, with members pitching in to fight fires, forming relationships with residents, and many even settling in Cheboygan after their retirement.

As we move closer to 2006 when this historic vessel is decommissioned and replaced with a new cutter *Mackinaw*, Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in paying tribute to the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* and her crews over the last 60 years. They deserve our deepest gratitude, and I wish them well when they gather next month to celebrate 60 years of fond memories.

PROPOSED AMERICAN HEALTH
BENEFITS PROGRAM

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a health care proposal that I am proud to introduce.

For years now, elected officials at all levels of government have struggled to address the nation's health-care crisis, and meet the ever-increasing demand for affordable health care. A significant part of the population lacks access to the most basic health coverage. In 2002, 43.6 million Americans were uninsured—80 percent of whom were members of working families. Closing this gap is one of the greatest domestic challenges our nation faces.

As health-insurance premiums rise each year, businesses face difficult decisions. To maintain the same level of coverage, they must either cover these extra costs or pass them along to employees. Many business owners confront an even starker choice: Decrease benefits or drop coverage altogether.

Those of us in Congress have a responsibility to ensure that no family is forced to go

without health coverage. My proposal for meaningful health care reform requires a commitment from the government to act in the best interest of its citizens.

A national template for this type of coverage—one that every Member of Congress is intimately familiar with—already exists: the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). Through the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the federal government manages health insurance for more than 8 million federal employees, retirees and dependents. This program, composed of private insurance carriers, is administered by the federal government, which assumes responsibility for approving or disapproving carriers, negotiating benefit and rate changes, and auditing carriers' operations under the law. With incredibly low administrative costs and a below-average annual premium increase, the federal government has been able offer a wide variety of choices and protections to its employees and Members of Congress.

My legislation offers a framework for a system wherein all Americans are offered the opportunity to participate in an FEHBP-style program—called the American Health Benefits Program (AHBP). Under this design, all Americans not eligible for existing federal programs—such as TRICARE, Veterans Health Programs, Indian Health Services, Medicare and Medicaid will be required to participate. The government will provide a defined contribution toward every enrollee's premium and actively manage and regulate the process of informed consumer choice, motivating private insurance companies to produce a favorable combination of efficiency and equity. Plans will compete for enrollees on the basis of benefits as well as efficiency, service and price.

Employers will be relieved of the annual burden of having to negotiate new health care packages for their employees. They will continue to play a critical role in the health care system through a flat tax on payroll—which promises to be more stable and consistent than premiums offered to them by insurance companies.

It is time we started offering every American the kind of coverage and oversight that we, as Members of Congress, have come to rely upon. Health care is much more than an issue that polls well with voters. As elected officials, we must take the incremental steps needed to develop a universal health-care system that is affordable, high-quality and well managed.

I firmly believe that health care is a basic inalienable right of every American. If we work together to address this critical issue, I know we can realize this goal.

HONORING LUKE PALDER ON THE
COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luke Palder on the completion of his internship. Luke has been a tremendous help to me and my staff while he has interned in my Washington, DC, office this summer.

This is Luke's second summer as an intern for a member of the House of Representatives, which is remarkable when you consider

that Luke will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

Luke dedicates himself to excellence, and he commits himself fully to every project he undertakes. His internship in my office has been no exception. He has received the highest praise from constituents who have toured the U.S. Capitol with him. And he has proven himself to be a valuable addition to the office.

Luke treats everyone he meets with kindness and respect. With his dedication and determination, I am sure that he will be successful in every endeavor he pursues. I wish him all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RAY
DOMENICO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor Ray Domenico of Welby, Colorado. Ray recently passed away from a stomach illness at the age of seventy-four. He will be remembered as the consummate farmer and a true American patriot. It is my privilege to recognize the life and memory of Ray before this body of Congress and this nation.

Ray was born and raised on a farm in Welby, Colorado. Following high school, Ray enlisted in the United States Navy and proudly served our country on a destroyer during the Korean War. After returning from the war, Ray returned to his roots and worked on his family farm. Ray spent many hours out of the day cultivating both fruits and vegetables. He was known for his work ethic, and he instilled the ethic in his children by leading through example.

For Ray, family was the most important part of his life. When he returned home from the Korean War he married Agnes in 1954. Ray and Agnes had known each other for most of their lives, since Agnes grew up on the neighboring farm. The couple raised a large family of thirteen children, with an even larger second generation comprised of thirty-eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the Welby community will sorely miss Ray Domenico. Throughout the farm community, he will be known for his hard work and dedication to the cultivation of his crops. In this difficult time of bereavement, I wish to express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

REMEMBERING ROY BURKE "R.B."
HEAD, JR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and beloved family man, the late Roy Burke Head, Jr., of Whitesboro, who passed away on April 7 at the age of 92. A stranger to none, he was affectionately known to his friends and family as R.B. or simply "B."

R.B. was a kind and generous man who devoted his life to his family, his community, and

his country. He served in the U.S. Army for 5 years and for 50 years worked as a buyer for the wholesale grocery firm, Tyler and Simpson. He retired to pursue his interests of cattle, photography and reading. R.B. also was active in his community, serving as an elder and church treasurer of the First Presbyterian Church. He was a longstanding member of Kiwanis Club—serving for almost 40 years and touting a perfect attendance record until the last few months of his life. He was an avid sports fan, and no distance was too great for him to travel to watch his grandchildren's sporting events.

R.B. also was a devoted family man. He leaves behind his loving wife of 61 years, Lucile Allen Head; his children Judith Anderson Reedy and husband Rick of Frisco, and Sally Burke Light and husband George of Collinsville; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother Bill Head and wife Anne of Austin; sister-in-law Mary Ann Allen of Whitesboro and many other family members.

R.B. was a man of honor and integrity who was admired and respected by all those who knew him. He will long be remembered for his leadership, his compassion, and his enthusiasm for life. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this outstanding citizen, Roy Burke Head, Jr.

A BILL TO EXTEND THE AUTHORITY OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill that authorizes a 6-year extension in authority for the Veterans Administration's (VA) Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War.

It is estimated that, since the American Revolution, more than 500,000 Americans have been captured and incarcerated as prisoners of war. Since World War I, more than 142,000 Americans—including 83 women—have been captured and interned as POWs. Not included in this figure are nearly 93,000 Americans who were lost in battle and whose whereabouts are unknown. Almost 16,000 POWs are currently in receipt of compensation for service-connected injuries, diseases, or illnesses from the Federal Government.

In 1981, Congress created the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War (Committee). It is comprised of POWs from World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and the Gulf War, as well as other individuals who are recognized authorities in such fields as psychiatry, psychology, internal medicine, nutrition, epidemiology, geriatrics, including persons knowledgeable about disabilities prevalent among former POWs, and disabled veterans.

The Committee advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits under Title 38, United States Code, for veterans who are former prisoners of war and the needs of such veterans in the areas of service-connected compensation, health care and rehabilitation.

The Committee assesses the needs of former prisoners of war in the area of service-

connected compensation, health care, and rehabilitation. It also reviews the VA programs and activities designed to meet such needs. Lastly, it develops such recommendations as it considers appropriate, including recommendations for administrative and legislative action. This committee then prepares biennial reports that are submitted to the Secretary on these issues.

The Committee plays an important role by ensuring that the concerns of America's former prisoners of war are heard and that their needs are met. I am very pleased to introduce this bill today and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure swift passage of this legislation to allow the Committee to continue its important work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KENDAY
KAMARA

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of students graduate for colleges and universities everyday, on rare occasions there is a student that stands out. I would like to take a moment to recognize one student that has overcome great obstacles to earn his graduate degree and honors. Kenday Kamara was awarded the 2004 Graduate Student of the Year from the University of Phoenix.

Mr. Kamara's life in Sierra Leone was anything but peaceful. As a journalist for the Sierra Leone Digest, Mr. Kamara wrote an editorial appealing for the peaceful resolution to the conflict that was raging in his homeland. Such an act of expression would often go unnoticed here in America; however in Sierra Leone, Mr. Kamara and his family were tormented for this act. He finally received asylum in the United States in 1998, and was later reunited with his family here in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Kamara and his achievements here today, and wish him all the best in her future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIKE
O'NEILL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, to place your life in danger for the safety of your fellow citizens is an honorable and noble task, and our police officers do this on a regular basis. Commander Mike O'Neill of the Denver Police Department is one such hero, and after thirty-seven years of dedicated service, he recently announced his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the important role he has played in protecting the citizens of Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation.

At the point in Mike's youth when it came time to commit to his future and decide his vocation, he decided to become a police officer. The choice was obvious for him considering his father had also served as a police officer.

In 1967, Mike joined the Denver Police Department working in the city's second district. During his thirty-seven year career, he has worked in units covering drugs and gangs, shifts covering night and day, and he has held positions as district commander, division chief and head of the police academy.

As he embarks on retirement, he finishes his career in patrolling the same district where he began. After over thirty years with the department, he can take pride in knowing he has carried on his family's proud legacy of commitment to serving others. In his retirement, he and his wife Suzy, another former police officer, can enjoy a more relaxing pace to their lives.

Mr. Speaker, Commander Mike O'Neill has shown tremendous leadership and honor throughout his career with the Denver Police Department. Mike consistently exhibited selflessness to put the safety of the people he served first and foremost. It is my pleasure to recognize his career before this body of Congress and this nation. I thank him for his hard work and commitment to his fellow citizens and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE VAN
WERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to the Van Wert County Historical Society on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

The Van Wert County Historical Society was born of the desire to preserve the history of a great county within the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. The idea for a historical society first surfaced during Ohio's sesquicentennial in 1953. From overwhelming requests, members of the Van Wert Sesquicentennial Committee founded the Historical Society in 1954. While the Society was slow to start, a meeting on September 18, 1955, changed the course of history for the group. William Fosnaught, a local attorney and schoolteacher, presented the deed to a mansion which was donated to house the museum.

Since the 1955 donation of a mansion to the Historical Society, the group has expanded its grounds by adding a gazebo, barn, and log house, one-room schoolhouse, Conrail caboose and the annex building. In addition, the Historical Society boasts the only gazebo to be listed on the National Register of Historical Sites.

Mr. Speaker, what makes the Van Wert County Historical Society unique is that the mansion holds artifacts that represent the vast history of Van Wert County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Van Wert County Historical Society. Our communities are served well by having these societies to narrate history to future generations. However, it is the generous donations of artifacts and the volunteering of time by the people of Van Wert County which make the Historical Society a success. On behalf of the people of the

Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MARQUETTE, MI AND YOKAICHI, JAPAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, on August 13, 1979, the city of Marquette, MI, entered into a sister city relationship with Yokaichi, Shiga Prefecture, Japan. Since then, the relationship has flourished, and I would like to congratulate both cities on their upcoming 25th Anniversary of this sister-city bond.

In his September 12, 1992 remarks to the 102nd Congress, my predecessor, Congressman Robert Davis, praised these sister cities and included an extensive history of that relationship (E2819–2821). I would also like to highlight the history of the Marquette-Yokaichi sister-city program:

On September 12, 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower initiated the Sister City program to build close relationships and cultural understanding between people of different countries. President Eisenhower's theory: these new relationships could be a powerful force in promoting world peace and would help prevent misunderstandings between the governments of those countries.

On November 14, 1968, Michigan Governor George Romney and Shiga Prefecture's Gov. Kinichiro Nozaki initiated a Sister State relationship. This was followed by annual exchanges between these states and the encouragement to establish bonds between their cities.

When the cities of Marquette, Michigan and Yokaichi, Shiga, Japan signed their August 13, 1979 Sister City Agreement, its focus was directed to cultural exchanges with the intent of developing long-term friendships and understanding between the people of these two communities. Several actions have assisted its continued expansion and success:

Annual exchanges of formal delegations and several informal delegations have occurred since 1979.

Each delegate, visitor, student, teacher artist or other representative to his or her sister city is welcomed as a member of an extended family and stays with a host family that may include three generations in its household.

"Sister" agreements were signed between the Rotary Clubs in 1979 and the Chambers of Commerce in 1983 of the two cities.

The two cities have also had many exchanges through their education programs. Northern Michigan University has offered an academic year scholarship to a student from Yokaichi since 1980 and several have returned to receive degrees there. The Japan Center for Michigan Universities, located twenty miles from Yokaichi, has offered scholarships to three Northern Michigan University students each academic year since 1989.

Marquette and Yokaichi school students exchange letters and the schools in each city teach their pupils about their Sister City. Michigan and Shiga initiated annual teacher exchange and government worker exchange pro-

grams in the early 1980's. Michigan and Shiga initiated a summer high school student exchange program in the 1990's.

Finally, over 100 Marquette or Yokaichi casual visitors have been welcomed to their sister city. More than 2,500 delegates, host family members, students, teachers, government officials and informal visitors have participated directly in the Marquette-Yokaichi partnership. With each exchange has come the opportunity to plant new seeds of friendship and understanding, many of which have become self-sustaining gardens that are freely shared with others in the community. With each exchange has come the opportunity to become a member of an extended family. And for many, it has become a life-changing experience.

Mr. Speaker, again I applaud the cities of Marquette and Yokaichi for their great success in building this special relationship through their sister-city status. I congratulate them on their 25th anniversary and I wish them continued success for the next twenty-five years.

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD J. MCELROY ON HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to congratulate a longtime champion of public schools, Mr. Edward J. McElroy, on his recent election to the position of President of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) second-largest teachers' union in the country. His longstanding commitment and leadership on education and the issues faced by working families will be of great value to AFT's 1.3 million members.

A former social studies and English teacher in my hometown of Warwick, R.I., Mr. McElroy earned his bachelor of arts degree from Providence College in Rhode Island. He has also done graduate work at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. His service in Rhode Island includes time spent as president of the Warwick Teachers Union, the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and the Rhode Island AFL–CIO. The heart of Mr. McElroy's service has always been fighting for a stronger education system for our children. He has recognized that the best way to give children a chance for a better future and to provide a strong workforce is to provide every child with a strong education.

As president of the Rhode Island Federation of teachers, Mr. McElroy worked with the Rhode Island state legislature on the Michelson Act, which created collective bargaining for teachers in the state. On a national front, he has led efforts to strengthen and uphold financial and accountability requirements at every level of the union. He has been at the forefront of the AFT's initiatives to harness technology to support, inform and mobilize union members. For decades, Ed McElroy has displayed unwavering leadership and commitment to the teachers, paraprofessionals and school-related personnel, local, state and federal employees, higher education faculty and staff, nurses and healthcare professionals, and public schoolchildren of our Nation.

Personally, I have known Mr. McElroy for more than 20 years and have had the pleasure of working with him in his leadership positions, both in Rhode Island and more recently as the Secretary-Treasurer of the AFT. I am confident that he will bring tremendous dedication, professionalism and expertise to the position of President of the American Federation of Teachers.

HONORING WILLIAM POMEROY ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions William Pomeroy has made while interning in my Washington, D.C., office. Will, a fellow Middle Tennessean, has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

But Will must return to Knoxville for his sophomore year at the University of Tennessee, where he is a member of the Young Democrats and the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

During his internship, Will won over the entire staff with his ever-present eagerness and genuine interest in public affairs. He has attended briefings, addressed constituent concerns and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from Middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I hope Will has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed his presence in the office. I wish him all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RODNEY DAVIDSON, JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated volunteer fireman from La Junta, Colorado. Rodney Davidson Jr. is the recipient of the Volunteer Fireman of the Year award for his position as a role model for future firefighters. Rodney provides an invaluable service to his community and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Rodney has spent more than twenty years as a volunteer fireman with the John Fisher Hose Company. When he joined the company in 1984, he was following in the footsteps of his father who currently serves as fire chief and several other family members who served as volunteers. Rodney is the president of the company, an organization that is dedicated to recruiting volunteer fire fighters that dates back to 1883. He is also a certified pyrotechnician and helps with local fireworks displays every year.

Mr. Speaker, Rodney Davidson, Jr. is a dedicated volunteer that risks his own health and safety so that others may live. His work

has taken him away from his family and friends on several occasions and he has served as a role model offering leadership and guidance in his community. I am honored to recognize him today before this body and this nation for his devotion and commitment to aiding those in need. He serves as a valuable role model for all fire fighters. Congratulations on your award Rodney and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING FEDERAL JUDGE
WILLIAM STEGER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Judiciary and longtime U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Judge William Steger, who recently received the Justinian Award during Law Day festivities in Tyler. Judge Steger has served as a U.S. District Judge in East Texas for more than thirty years, culminating a career dedicated to the highest principles of ethics and justice in the profession of law.

Nominated by President Richard Nixon, Judge Steger began his judgeship on December 29, 1970, in the Eastern District of Texas, presiding in Beaumont and also holding court in Paris, Texarkana, Sherman and Marshall. He moved to the Tyler Federal courthouse, where he currently presides, in September 1978. He assumed Senior Active Status duty as U.S. District Judge on December 31, 1987, and since that time has closed approximately 6,500 cases.

Among his noteworthy rulings, Judge Steger in 1975 ruled that a private hospital, although receiving State and Federal support, was not prohibited from establishing policies denying use of its facilities for elective abortions. In 1980 he presided over one of the first cases applying the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, resulting in conviction of numerous county officials for offenses ranging from solicitation of murder to facilitation of gambling activity. Other cases resulted in convictions for illegal narcotics transactions—one of which resulted in the government seizing properties that were later auctioned for over \$10,000,000 and deposited in the U.S. Treasury.

A 1950 graduate of Southern Methodist University Law School, Judge Steger engaged in the private practice of law in Longview from 1951 to 1953. In 1953 he was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as U.S. District Attorney in East Texas and remained in the post until 1959 when he resigned to enter private practice in Tyler. He was a partner in the firm of Wilson, Miller, Spivey and Steger from 1959 to 1970, until his appointment as U.S. District Judge.

From 1952 to 1970 Judge Steger was an active member of the Republican Party of Texas. In 1960 he was the Republican candidate for governor, and in 1962 he was the Republican nominee for U.S. Representative in the Third Congressional District, receiving 48 percent of the vote. He served as State

Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas from 1969 to 1970.

Judge Steger was born in 1920 and attended public schools in Dallas. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1938 and attended Baylor University from 1938 to 1941, when his pre-law studies were interrupted by World War II. Less than 24 hours after Pearl Harbor was attacked, Judge Steger withdrew from Baylor University and volunteered for service. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on January 5, 1942, as cadet and received his Pilot Wings and Commission as 2nd Lieutenant on November 9, 1942. He flew 56 combat missions as a fighter pilot in Tunisia, Sicily and Italy and attained the rank of Captain. After being honorably discharged, he entered SMU Law School in 1948 and received his LLB Degree in 1950.

Judge Steger is married to his wonderful wife of 56 years, Ann Hollandsworth Steger. They had one child, Merritt Reed Steger, who passed away as a young man. Judge and Mrs. Steger have been active members of their community. "Through his efforts, he's made a significant contribution to all aspects of life in Smith County and the State of Texas," said U.S. District Judge T. John Ward in presenting the Justinian Award to Judge Steger.

I also want to commend the Smith County Bar Association, the Smith County Bar Foundation, the Smith County Lawyer's Auxiliary, the Smith County Young Lawyers Association, the Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals and Tyler Teen Court, Inc., who in conjunction with the American Bar Association, sponsor Law Day each year to honor local attorneys and civic leaders as well as students who participate in Teen Court and an essay and poster contest.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to celebrate the life of this esteemed jurist and outstanding American who answered the call to service in World War II, serving with distinction in that endeavor, then dedicated his life to serving the cause of justice and defending the principles upon which this Nation was founded. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute today to U.S. District Judge William Steger and to express our sincere appreciation for his service to his community, the State of Texas, and our Nation.

TRIBAL PARITY ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Tribal Parity Act. This bill would fully compensate the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in South Dakota for the lands that they lost as a result of the federal government's construction of the massive dams on the main stem of the Missouri River.

The 1944 Flood Control Act cost these tribes much in terms of lost land. It also took an enormous toll on the people of both tribes and their economies. It is critically important

that we seek to fully reimburse these tribes for the lands they lost.

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe are both constituent bands of the Great Sioux Nation. Both border on the Missouri River in central South Dakota and are connected by the Big Bend Dam.

Congress created a trust fund for the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in 1996, and a separate trust fund for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in 1997. These trust funds sought to compensate the tribes for the value of their land that is now permanently inundated as a result of the construction of the Big Bend Dam. Unfortunately, the formula that the General Accounting Office used to calculate amount of compensation for both tribes was substantially different than the formulas that it has used to calculate damages for many other similarly situated tribes. The result was unfair and inadequate compensation funds for these tribes.

Parity for these tribes would mean an ability to actively work for the betterment of their communities. It would mean adequate roads and improved community facilities. It would mean better health care and newer schools. It would mean attracting commercial business and improving the local economy. Most importantly, it would mean a real chance for these tribes to provide future generations with the tools that so many of us take for granted.

I would ask all of my distinguished colleagues to support the Tribal Parity Act and work with me to enact legislation that would fairly and appropriately compensate members of the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes. I ask you to do it because of the tremendous positive difference it would make in the lives of those affected—and because it is clearly the right and fair thing to do.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED A
POUNDSTONE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated and inspiring career of Freda Poundstone. Ms. Poundstone served as the first woman mayor of Greenwood Village, Colorado, and when her time as mayor came to an end, she continued to serve the community as a determined lobbyist for 36 years.

During her career, Ms. Poundstone worked diligently to strengthen her community. Her actions as mayor proved that Ms. Poundstone truly acted to serve the public, and this contributed to her many accomplishments. She faced many challenges, but did not hesitate to speak her mind and fight for what she thought was right. Her successes did not stop after serving as mayor, rather Ms. Poundstone became the first woman contract lobbyist in Colorado and furthered her accomplishments to include advocating successfully for the passage of three Constitutional Amendments.

Public officials who fulfill their duties with passion and allegiance as the former mayor

did provide an excellent example of true public service. Ms. Poundstone's retirement from lobbying will not mean the end of her service however, as she intends to remain active.

The contributions Ms. Poundstone has made to the Greenwood Village community have been invaluable, and she has truly helped to strengthen and develop the city into what it is today. I wish to thank her for her dedicated service and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE GRACE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a church in my district that recently celebrated a remarkable milestone. On July 2, the members of the Grace United Methodist Church in Houghton, Michigan celebrated their congregation's 150th anniversary. For the last century and a half, Grace United Methodist Church has been a place of worship, prayer and fellowship for the people of this community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

In 1854, the same year that the Village of Houghton was founded, Reverend Lewis W. Earl organized the Portage Lake Class, which would become today's Grace United Methodist Church. Three years later, the small congregation resolved "to build a house of worship in Houghton," and construction began in the spring of 1859. Later that year, the structure, which was still being built, was moved to the corner lot that is the site of the present church, thanks to the generous gift of Mr. William Newcomb.

During the pastorate of Reverend C.V. Thompson from 1888 to 1893, the congregation decided to construct the elegant stone church building that is in use today. In June 1893, the completed church was dedicated with much ceremony. Several of the day's most prominent clergymen came to Houghton to give lectures or sermons as part of the dedication activities, including Reverend Earl Cranston, Reverend Joseph Frazer, Reverend Bishop Ninde, and Reverend A.R. Bartlett.

On the evening of November 24, 1916, tragedy struck as Grace Church was almost completely destroyed by fire. Fortunately, the red sandstone walls remained standing, which also protected the church's beautiful stained glass windows. While the members of Grace Church were understandably upset by this turn of events, the other churches of Houghton were quick to offer their assistance. As a result, services were held for several months in the Masonic Temple, and then for 2 years the congregation held joint services with the Presbyterian Church while Grace Church was being rebuilt.

Reconstruction of the church building was delayed by the start of World War I, and the congregation was not able to move back into its own church until 1918, when steps were taken to at least rebuild the basement level. Complete restoration of the church was finally achieved in 1924 when Reverend John E.

Lewin worked tirelessly to raise the necessary funds and secure a loan from the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, much has changed in the Grace United Methodist Church's first 150 years. After the church recovered from the 1916 fire, it continued to make improvements and expansions to accommodate its growing congregation. It has also received the guidance and leadership of a number of pastors from its founding by Reverend Earl to the current pastor, Reverend Tom Anderson. But throughout these changes, the members of the Grace United Methodist Church have been true to their faith and to each other.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in congratulating the Grace United Methodist Church and its members on their first 150 years as a community of faith, and in wishing them well in their next 150.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LANDY
TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a kind and caring individual from Montrose, Colorado who is brightening the spirits of American soldiers in Iraq. Landy Taylor is reminding our troops that we support them and their noble mission, and I am proud to join my colleagues here today before this body of Congress and this Nation in recognizing his tremendous generosity and good will.

After receiving an email from Duane Ziegler, the chief of the Montrose Regional Airport fire department who is serving in Iraq with the Colorado National Guard, about the tough battlefront conditions Landy decided to start Operation Sweet Tooth. He figured that candy would help lift the soldiers' spirits and so he began to buy cases of candy, elk jerky, and other items and ship them off to the troops. Landy himself, is a former aviation executive and a veteran of the Army and wanted to be able to let our troops know of our Nation's support.

Since the initial shipment of more than seven thousand pieces of candy, Landy, and his wife Marta have shipped hundreds of pounds of candy and over 800 pounds of elk jerky. He often sends care packages daily and sometimes picks up the shipping costs of up to \$300 a week out of his own pocket. Most of the candy and snacks that are shipped go to four different military hospitals in Baghdad where they are distributed to patients, soldiers and Iraqi children.

Mr. Speaker, Landy Taylor is a generous individual who is actively involved in lifting the spirits of our American soldiers and demonstrating how much we appreciate their efforts in Iraq. He has inspired other citizens and friends within his community to aid the troops and I am honored to recognize him today before this body and this Nation for his devotion and commitment to our American soldiers. Thank you for your generosity Landy,

and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING HOWARD SNELL FOR
HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION
TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize an outstanding veteran of World War II who dedicated much of his life in service to our country—Howard Snell of Tyler.

Mr. Snell devoted 21 years to service in the U.S. Navy, moving through the ranks from cook to chief sonar technician. During that time, he engaged in 17 World War II battles, including the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor and the monumental showdown at Midway.

Now at the age of 81, Mr. Snell has found himself in the middle of another battle—with cancer. Yet in a display of his trademark determination, Mr. Snell was one of the proud veterans present at the May 29 dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington. He postponed his first round of chemotherapy so that he could attend the ceremony, fearing that starting the treatment before his trip would cause him to miss the dedication—and that was simply not an option for this World War II veteran who serves as an official of the national Survivors of Pearl Harbor Association.

Throughout his life, Mr. Snell has upheld the high standards of conduct befitting a soldier and a gentleman. As we adjourn today, it is my privilege to recognize such an outstanding American and veteran—Mr. Howard Snell—and wish him well as he fights another of life's battles.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SIMON
MAGHAKYAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today, I have the pleasure of celebrating a young person from my district, Simon Hakob Maghakyian, who was elected executive vice president of the Sigma Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two-year colleges. Membership is based on academic achievement and members are also provided opportunities for growth and development in scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service.

Simon is attending Arapahoe Community College with a major in general science, with plans to transfer to University of California at Los Angeles. Given his demonstrated dedication to academics and hard work, I have no doubt he will be successful in all of his endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Maghakyian here today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO INTER-
NATIONAL DECA COMPETITION
WINNERS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the accomplishments of three teams of high school students. These teams competed at the 2004 DECA International Career Development Conference held in Nashville Tennessee, where they placed first in the categories they competed in.

These high school DECA teams have worked throughout the year to prepare for the international competition by preparing projects, competing in preliminary competitions, and expanding their understanding of the business industry.

Hanna Cunnane, Noah Funderburk and Laura Sullivan, from Cherry Creek High School placed in the Hospitality and Recreation Marketing Research competition. Monica Kremer, Charles Fuller and Lauren Blood, also students at Cherry Creek High School placed in Food Marketing Research. The team of Jessica Watts and Jennifer Bracht from Highlands Ranch High School placed in the Travel and Tourism Marketing Management Team Decision Making category.

DECA, the Distributive Education Club of America, was organized in 1946 to bring opportunities in marketing and management closer to students. Since then, the club has grown to have over 180,000 members. The DECA International Career Development Conference is the culmination of the DECA year and brings together thirteen thousand students, advisors and businesspersons for competition and education.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of these students are only the beginning of the contributions they will make in the future. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KEITH E.
HARMON ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS ELECTION AS STATE COM-
MANDER OF OHIO FOR THE VET-
ERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMER-
ICA

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On Saturday, June 26, 2004 Mr. Keith E. Harman, of Delphos, Ohio, was elected and installed as the State Commander of Ohio for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America for the 2004-2005 year.

A Vietnam Veteran, Keith Harman served his country with honor and distinction from 1967 to 1969 while attached to A Troop, 2/17th Air Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division as a crew chief and door gunner on a Huey helicopter. Keith's honors include the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Viet-

nam Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge and the National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, in 1983 Keith began his involvement in the VFW by becoming a Life Member of Post 3035 in Delphos, Ohio and in 1986, Keith was elected Post Commander of 3035. It was in this capacity that he embarked on a career of compassion, always wanting to assist veterans in need. Keith would hold the title of Commander of 3035 for three consecutive years until his election in 1990 to District 2 Commander, where he most recently served as Vice Commander of Ohio. In addition to his VFW duties, Keith has been involved in his fellow veterans' concerns by serving as the Van Wert County Veterans Service Officer for the past thirteen years.

As District 2 Commander, Keith has displayed great leadership by effectively communicating the mission at hand and adapting to the ever-changing world around him. Through his drive and leadership, Keith has worked tirelessly to increase the membership of the VFW, forge solid relationships with Ohio's communities, and advance the issues that affect veterans most.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mr. Keith Harmon. Our communities are well served by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Keith, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Keith and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of the Fifth District's finest citizens.

TRIBUTE TO THE BETHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a church in my district that has recently passed a remarkable milestone. On July 11, the members of the Bethany Lutheran Church in Isabella, Michigan celebrated their congregation's 100th anniversary. For a century, the Bethany Lutheran Church has been a place of worship, prayer, and fellowship for the people of this small farming community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

On July 11, 1904, what was then the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church held its first meeting at the home of John Wester in Isabella. This first service was conducted by a seminarian, J.J. Youngren, who used Matthew 5:20-26 for his sermon. Reflecting the heritage of the community, Swedish was the primary language of the congregation for its first twenty years.

On December 26, 1904, the church's first ordained pastor, Reverend K.M. Holmberg, held his first service, using John 1:1-14 as the basis for his sermon. The following spring, the church purchased a half acre of land from one of its members, Mr. Jacob Carlson, where the church building stands to this day. By 1906, the church's Secretary, Mr. Martin Nyquist, was planning for the church building, and construction began on May 31, 1908. The church architect and chief carpenter was Fred Magnuson.

Just over four years later, on July 14, 1912, the congregation attended the first service in

the church's new home. Though there have been a number of improvements to the building, the congregation of the Bethany Lutheran Church still meets each Sunday in that original structure.

Mr. Speaker, much has changed in the Bethany Lutheran Church's first century. Always a small congregation, the church's membership has waxed and waned over the years from the original 39 members to the 17 of today. It has also received the guidance and leadership of a number of pastors from Reverend Holmberg to the current pastor, Reverend David Hueter. But throughout these changes, the members of the Bethany Lutheran Church have been true to their faith and to each other.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in congratulating the Bethany Lutheran Church and its members on their first 100 years as a community of faith, and in wishing them well in their next 100.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STEIN
ERIKSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to a renowned ski racer from Aspen, Colorado. Stein Erikson has been a great ambassador for the sport of skiing and inspires many Americans and ski enthusiasts around the world. I am privileged to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize his accomplishments and commitment to the sport of skiing.

Initially Stein moved to Aspen from Norway in 1958 and has been racing and instructing skiers ever since. Stein won a gold and silver medal in the giant slalom, and slalom for the Norwegian ski team in the 1952 Oslo Olympics and several medals from the 1950 and 1954 World Championships. He is best known however for his ski school instruction. He began teaching at Boyne Mountain, Michigan and then moved to Heavenly Valley, California before landing at Aspen Highlands in Snowmass ski school. Recently Stein was inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame for his many contributions to the sport over the years.

Stein is famous for his execution of an aerial somersault that has since been dubbed the X games of the early days in Aspen ski history. He was the first skier to perform a forward flip or Moby flip that helped to usher in the beginning of freestyle skiing. Stein, who was knighted by the King of Norway in 1997 for his contributions to his home country's favorite sport remains an active fixture in the American skiing scene. Not only did he ski every day last ski season but he can outpace many skiers half his age and his trademark Norwegian sweaters that he made popular fifty years ago continue to warm skiers today.

Mr. Speaker Stein Erikson is an internationally accomplished skier that has been a great ambassador for his sport and inspired many Americans to chase after their dreams. He has enriched the lives of the members of his Aspen community and I am honored to recognize his achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today. Congratulations on your induction Stein, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RESTORING DEMOCRACY TO THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS ACT
OF 2004

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress should be a role model for democracies around the world. Instead, with votes that are extended up to three hours to change their outcome to allegations of bribery on the House Floor to the alleged stealing of computer files by a staffer, we are increasingly becoming a model of how not to run a democracy. That is why we are introducing the Restoring Democracy to the United States. This legislation sets forth ten changes that would ensure that the U.S. Congress will continue to be a beacon of democracy.

1. This legislation would limit the time of roll call votes to 17 minutes.

2. It would require conference committees to meet and vote before filing their conference report.

3. It would prohibit germaneness requirements for conference reports from being waived.

4. It would prohibit Members from calling the Capitol Police to have a Member removed from a room.

5. It would prohibit redistricting between censuses.

6. It would prohibit a vote on legislation unless it has been available in a searchable form online for more than 24 hours.

7. It would prohibit bribery on the House Floor.

8. It would prohibit the hacking into Member's computer files.

9. It would prohibit Committees from spending more than \$25,000 a year on franked mail.

10. It would guarantee the Minority a minimum of one-third of the overall committee budget.

These ten measures would go a long way to ensure that democracy is upheld in the United States Congress. Unless we enact these safeguards, Members working together in a bipartisan manner will continue to see their work thwarted despite having a majority of Members in favor of their proposals. How many more abuses must there be before we say enough is enough? I urge all Members to support the Restoring Democracy to the U.S. Congress Act of 2004.

REMARKS BY JOHN BROWNE,
GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BEYOND
PETROLEUM (BP)

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following speech that was delivered by Mr. John Browne, Group Chief Executive of Beyond Petroleum (BP) to the Washington Press Club on March 23, 2004 entitled, "Energy—the Medium Term Outlook."

The level of interest in energy issues and energy security has grown steadily over the last three years. A whole series of events have reminded people both of the importance of secure energy supplies in a modern economy and of the challenges involved in matching available supplies to growing global demand.

Concerns have been expressed—here in the U.S., in Europe and in many other parts of the world. BP is the largest producer of oil and gas here in the U.S., and the second largest private company in our sector in the world. We work in over 100 countries—exploring for, producing, distributing and selling oil and gas in areas ranging from Russia to Angola from Germany to China. So we hear the concerns expressed from many sides.

I want to try and separate the concerns which are real, and which need to be managed—from those which are false, and which need to be discarded before they distract us from the serious agenda. I want in particular to emphasize the point that "self sufficiency" can't be achieved through protectionism. Trade is essential and we have to ensure that trade can thrive. I'll talk about the U.S. position—and I'll try and set that position in its proper context—which is the global energy scene. And I'll focus on facts—because facts should be the basis of good policy.

At one level this is a very simple issue. It is about demand and supply. The demand for energy is driven by demography and economic performance. By the number of people who can afford to buy the energy they need. Today the world's population is estimated at 6.3 bn. That figure grows by almost 10,000 an hour. In ten years time there will be almost another 1 billion people on earth. 7.2 bn by 2015 according to the most authoritative estimates from the U.N. More and more of those people will be able to afford to buy the energy they need. Economic growth continues to extend prosperity to more people every year in China and India and in other emerging economies. The Chinese economy has quadrupled in size over the last twenty years and China is now the 2nd largest single consumer of energy in the world after the U.S.

Today the world will use some 190 million barrels of oil equivalent—that is expressing all the different forms of energy supply—natural gas, coal, nuclear and so on in terms of a common unit of measurement. That energy is used in homes, in industry, in offices, in power stations and in transportation. Technology is gradually making the use of that energy more efficient. The energy intensity of each extra point of GDP growth has fallen over the last thirty years and continues to fall. But the fall is gradual.

The combination of more people and more prosperity will mean that the demand for energy will rise. The most recent estimates of the International Energy Agency suggest that world energy demand will rise by a third to around 240 mbdoe by 2015.

How can that demand be met?

Some place their faith in renewable and alternative forms of energy supply. Power from the wind and the waves. Power from solar panels. We believe those are important sources of future supply. We in BP are investing in research and development work in photovoltaics—the technology which supports solar power—and at various other forms of alternative energy supply. One day one or more of those new sources will provide a significant proportion of global energy demand. But the evidence is that day is still a long time off.

Today all the renewable and alternative forms of energy supply provide just 2.5 per cent of world demand, the bulk of which currently comes from biomass. Solar power provides just 0.001 per cent. Or to put it another way—all the solar power in the world would meet Washington's energy needs for just 6 days per year. Research continues—here in the US and in many other countries. But in every case we are still at the stage of research and experimentation. We believe renewables will provide material supplies of energy in the long term. But the long term

could be 20 or 30 or more years away. The estimate from the International Energy Agency is that in 2015 they will provide only 3.3 per cent of total demand.

What sources then will meet the demand?

Some people believe that the key lies in the potential of nuclear power. That is certainly possible. But it seems a remote possibility on the timescale of a decade. Nuclear currently supplies 7 per cent of world energy demand. The first generation of nuclear stations are reaching the end of their natural lives. Last year only 2 new nuclear stations were commissioned and public doubts both about safety and about the uncertain long term costs continue to constrain new investment. In the US, no new stations have been commissioned for over two decades while in Europe the forecasts suggest that on current trends nuclear capacity in Europe will decline rather than increase over the next ten years.

And that leaves hydrocarbons—coal, oil and gas—to meet the balance. The mix will vary from one country to another. China for instance will no doubt continue to use large volumes of coal but in terms of convenience, oil and gas seem set to remain the fuels of choice. In reality, energy security is about the supply of oil and gas to meet demand which could grow, again taking the IEA figures, to around 93 mbdoe of oil and 64 mbdoe of natural gas by 2015. That would represent a 20 per cent increase in oil demand from today's level and a 45 per cent increase in the consumption of gas.

Can the oil and gas industry meet that demand?

In physical terms the answer is clearly yes. The resources are there. The world holds some 1,000 bn bbl of oil which has been found but not yet produced, and some 550 tcf of natural gas—also found but not yet produced. At current consumption rates that is 40 years of oil supply and 60 years of gas. In addition the US Geological Service estimates that some 800 bn bbl of oil and 4500 tcf of natural gas are yet to be found. So in terms of physical resources, energy security is within reach.

But I believe there are two fundamental elements of risk which we have to deal with to ensure that security. The first is environmental—the risk that as the evidence of impact of human activity on the world's climate mounts we will be forced to take dramatic and potentially damaging action to avert the danger. That is a risk for the medium and longer term—not for today but we believe that precautionary action now could avert the risk. We believe that it is possible to keep atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases below the level at which sustainability is threatened—which on the currently best available scientific evidence is around 500 to 550 parts per million. There are various available paths by which that can be achieved—and there will be no single solution. Different countries can make different contributions to the overall objective and if we can establish a legitimate trusted emissions trading system—linked regionally—I believe we can reduce the risk without imposing a major cost on the economy. The real risk in this area is if we do nothing until it is almost too late. At that point the costs could be much higher.

The other element of risk arises from the fact that supply and demand are not typically co-located. One of the key issues of energy security over the next decade will be the growing trade in both oil and gas which will be necessary to match supply to demand. By 2015 there will be at least four

major energy importing regions in the world. Europe, Japan, China and the United States. Europe will be importing around an estimated 80 per cent of its daily needs of both oil and gas. The US rather less—but still more than 65 percent of its oil and around 30 per cent of its gas. By 2015 trade will likely account for almost 70 per cent of world oil demand—some 64 mb/d—and 20 per cent of world gas demand.

Is that trade secure? Can the US and others rely on trade rather than retreating to a policy of self sufficiency with all the costs which that could involve in terms of the environment and competitiveness?

I think the answer to that is also yes, but we can't take anything for granted. Genuine energy security needs sustained, long term engagement and action by both the industry and by Government. The issue of security arises not so much from the growing volume of consumption or the required trade growth but because the resources needed to supply the world's growing demand are concentrated in a relatively limited number of countries.

There are a number of sources of supply to the world market. Let me mention just three. The Caspian, through the Baku to Ceyhan pipeline which is now under construction, is scheduled to be producing and exporting 300,000 barrels per day by the end of 2005. Trinidad is now exporting some 200,000 barrels oil equivalent per day in the form of natural gas and the expansion plans which are now being carried through should double that figure by 2006. Indonesia is likely to be producing 1.5 million barrels per day oil equivalent and exporting 800,000 bdoe of that by the end of this decade. But however important these activities and those in other countries are, the inescapable fact is that even with all those areas developed successfully, the bulk of world traded supplies of both oil and gas for the future will almost certainly come from just three regions. The Middle East, Russia and Africa.

Going back to the estimates published by the IEA—which represent a fair consensus of informed opinion—of the 64 mbd of oil likely to be traded in 2015, well over 80 per cent will come from those three areas. For natural gas the figure is around 50 per cent.

That is the global picture. What about the US?

US energy demand is now 46 mbdoe of which two thirds is provided by oil and natural gas. The forecasts suggest that oil and gas demand will continue to grow so that by 2015 the US will be using around 21 mbd of oil, mainly in transportation and around 13 mbdoe of natural gas. In terms of resources the US remains strong. The US has more domestic supplies than any of the other major importing regions.

Alaska continues to produce just short of 1 million barrels per day and though oil production is declining, technology is progressively expanding the commercial life of Prudhoe Bay. The real strength for the future though lies in the Gulf of Mexico—in the deep water, which is producing 1.5 million barrels per day and which looks set to produce as much as 2.7 mb per day from 2010 onwards.

The gas position is also strong. As well as gas in the lower 48, and in the deep water of the Gulf of Mexico, there are extensive supplies—perhaps as much as 100tcf in Alaska which are ready to be brought to market once the infrastructure is in place. That's a strong position—but the US will still need imports and will still look to the world market to supply the balance of its needs through the next two decades. The forecasts suggest that the US will be importing some 13 mbd of oil and 3 mbdoe/day of natural gas in 2015.

What conclusions can we draw from all that? What do we need to do today to ensure that this country and its trading partners in Europe and Asia and elsewhere enjoy sustainable energy security?

The first conclusion is that these are single global markets. Oil, and increasingly gas are traded internationally. Every area will seek to develop its own resources rationally, but there is a competitive limit to that—set by the cost of development. The cost of self sufficiency for any area would be prohibitive. Trade and open markets have the sustained development of world economy over the last half century and I believe they can and will continue to do so. That applies to energy as much as to any other product. Energy prices will be set by the international market, and prices will affect the economy and the export markets of every country in the world. Energy security can't be achieved in one country. To deny the reality of the global economy would be dangerous and costly.

Secondly, the growth in trade worldwide means that everyone has an interest in the development of the widest possible range of available supplies to limit dependence on any single country. It would be dangerous, economically and strategically, to allow a situation to develop in which the US or any other region was dependent totally or very substantially on countries in the Middle East or any other single producer. At the moment the US imports some 11 mbd of oil. But those imports come from 57 different countries and no one country supplies more than 17 per cent. That is a good position to maintain. And to do so the US has to maintain the open flow of investment—to ensure that the international industry can invest with confidence in exploration and development across a diverse set of countries.

The best estimate of the total investment required to generate the flow of supplies necessary to match demand in 2015 is \$2,000 bn. That means that investment by the oil and gas industry will have to be even higher than the \$160 bn per annum which has been the average over the last few years. In financial terms I don't doubt that those resources can be found. But each individual investment by each company will be dependent on the climate for investment in the country concerned. That is why we are doing so much to support the principle of transparency—to ensure that the revenues we generate are used wisely in the interests of the long term development of the countries in which we invest. Corruption is an enemy of development, an enemy of business [because it raises costs], and an enemy of energy security.

The third conclusion is that we have to ensure that the necessary resources and infrastructure are built. That applies here to projects such as the Alaskan gas pipeline which could bring 1 million barrels per day oil equivalent to market, and to the development of LNG terminals which can open up channels of imported supply from Trinidad and West Africa. But the same point applies internationally—because infrastructure is necessary to bring resources to market from areas such as the Caspian and Siberia. In all these areas investment now will bring greater security for the future. I want to use this occasion to thank the US Government—under two administrations—for their sustained support for the development of the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan pipeline. The line which will enhance energy security for the world as a whole could not have been built without that support.

Fourth, we have to continue to develop technology—pushing the edge of what can be done with the resources we have. Extracting more, and using them more efficiently. That ranges from the Deep water, where we and

others are now producing from fields in over 7,000 ft of water—two and a half times deeper than was possible ten years ago; to the progressive extension of recovery rates in Alaska; to the sort of work we have underway with our partners in the automobile sector to combine advances in lubricants, in fuels and in engine technology to lift the level of productivity in vehicles.

All those steps are necessary, and many if not most of them will start here in the US—because this is a world technological leader.

So to summarise:

We can't take energy security for granted, and we can't achieve it through protectionism. Demand is rising and the substitutes for oil and gas are a long way off. There is no physical shortage. Technological advances must be deployed both to increase the amount of energy which can be produced and to ensure that it is used with the maximum possible efficiency. Finally, and most importantly, the risks to energy security are political and cannot be resolved by the private sector alone. The private sector has a vital role to play—particularly international companies such as BP. We have to explore and invest in the development of diverse sources of supply and in the infrastructure to bring it to market. But as companies we work within a space defined by public policy decisions. Actions by Governments are crucial in keeping the market open to investment, and ensuring that trade continues to be free and open. Those actions will determine whether those of us in the private sector can make successful long term investments in the development of resources and infrastructure. Diversity of supply is crucial. If we want to avoid undue dependence on just one region such as the Middle East, we have to invest in technology and in trade—raising investment confidence to ensure that supplies and infrastructure are in place to bring oil and gas from areas such as Russia, West Africa and the Caspian. The challenge is to align the medium and long term perspective I have been describing with the inevitably shorter perspective of Government. That has always been the case but the need to achieve that alignment between the actions of the public and the private sector has never been more important than it is today. If we can achieve that alignment I believe we can ensure that secure supplies of energy continue to be available to consumers here in the US and internationally.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for debate on rollcall vote 400, order of the previous question; rollcall vote 401, rule providing for consideration of Military Construction Appropriations (H. Res. 732); rollcall vote 402, recognizing the 35th anniversary of the *Apollo 11* lunar landing (H. Res. 723); rollcall vote 403, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic located in Peoria, Illinois (H.R. 4608); rollcall vote 404, conference report for Coast Guard Reauthorization (H.R. 2443); rollcall vote 405, Tax Simplification for America's Job Creation Act (H.R. 4840); and rollcall vote 406, Military Housing Improvement Act (H.R. 4879).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall votes 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, and 406.

INTRODUCTION OF HIS PRIVATE BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF JUDITH TANJOH AND HER CHILDREN SERGE, MARIE, EMMANUEL AND ROGER TIKUM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill for the relief of Judith Tanjoh and her children Serge, Marie, Emmanuel and Roger Tikum.

This family last entered the United States in 1988 in A-2 diplomatic status from the Republic of Cameroon when the now deceased husband of Judith Tanjoh was attached to the Cameroon Embassy. For the next several years the family lived in lawful status in the U.S. through December 31, 1997 when the husband was recalled to the Cameroon because of Judith's political activities against the Cameroon government.

Cameroon has been found by the U.S. State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices to possess a "poor human rights record", continuing to commit "numerous serious abuses". After her husband's recall, Judith decided to file for asylum. However, in turn her application was denied by the INS Asylum Office, the Immigration Judge, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit.

When the Board of Immigration Appeals "affirmed without opinion" the denial of the asylum application by the Immigration Judge on December 17, 2002, it also permitted the family to "voluntarily depart the U.S. . . . within 30 days from the date of this order or any extension beyond that time as may be granted by the district director [of the INS]". Within that 30 day period, Judith's attorneys filed for an extension of the voluntary departure period and a Petition for Review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. Each filing was in accordance with the family's statutory and regulatory rights.

The INS has never responded to the request for extension of the voluntary departure period. The 4th Circuit issued its mandate on November 10, 2003 "enforcing the Board's order of December 17, 2002". Of course, part of that order was permitting the family to voluntarily depart within 30 days.

While these proceedings were pending, INS issued Judith authorization to work and she obtained employment as a certified nursing assistant. Her employer has sponsored her (and her children derivatively) for lawful permanent residence via the Labor Certification process. That application, initially filed prior to April 30, 2001, has been certified by the U.S. Department of Labor and an Immigrant Worker's Visa Classification Petition has been pending with INS since July, 2003.

An INS General Counsel's Memo advises INS Government Attorneys to no longer apply the "exceptional and compelling circumstances" standard to motions to reopen for consideration of adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence for persons who have been in deportation proceedings. The Memo instructs that the INS should join in such a motion (which otherwise could not be filed if more than 3 months have expired since the decision of the Board of Immigration Ap-

peals) if the alien is statutorily eligible and warrants a favorable exercise of discretion. Judith's attorneys have twice requested the INS Chief Counsel's Office in Baltimore to join in such a motion in this case. Since Judith's labor certification was timely filed to allow her to adjust her status to permanent residence, she is statutorily eligible.

The family also clearly warrants a favorable exercise of discretion. Judith has been a hard-working, tax-paying certified nursing assistant for several years as she has worked with INS permission. The children have successfully progressed through our school system for the last 15 years. Roger Tikum graduated college and is now married, employed and living in Wisconsin. Although his wife is a U.S. citizen who has filed a Visa Petition to accord him Immediate Relative status, because he was previously riding on his mother's denied asylum application he faces deportation. Serge won a football scholarship to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he is a starting linebacker and an excellent student. Marie is doing well at Montgomery Community College. Emmanuel is a star football player at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, where he has also made honor roll.

The Tanjoh/Tikum family are not criminals. They are not terrorists. The children fear being uprooted from their true home in the U.S. and forced to live in a human rights abusive country which they do not know and whose predominant language they do not speak.

Yet, the INS Government Attorneys have coldly rejected each overture for clemency. First, by insisting that the harsher "exceptional and compelling circumstances" standard applies and that these circumstances were neither exceptional nor compelling. Second, by stating that the family was not statutorily eligible for permanent residence because they overstayed the Board of Immigration Appeals' December 17, 2002 Order granting a 30 day voluntary departure period even though the INS has never responded to the extension requests and even though the family timely pursued their Petition for Review rights to the 4th Circuit which only enforced the Board's Order on November 10, 2003.

Therefore, today I have introduced a Private Bill that will enable Judith Tanjoh and the Tikum children to obtain permanent residency. I hope my action today will help bring this heartbreaking story to a close.

TRIBUTE TO ALEWEL'S COUNTRY MEATS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to honor Alewel's Country Meats for their contribution in shipping more than 1,000 pounds of beef jerky to provide our Missouri National Guardsmen serving in Iraq a taste of home.

Alewel's Country Meats was started in the year 1932 by Hugo and Emil Alewel of Concordia, Missouri. Originally called Alewel Brothers, the name was later changed to Alewel's Country Meats in 1964. The plant grew to enormous size and in 1974 they expanded to Warrensburg, Missouri. My good

friend, Roger Alewel, once ran Alewel's Country Meats, and his able son, Randy, now runs the company.

Alewel's Country Meats is known for their prize winning country hams, bacon, and sausage which are produced from the freshest meat of mid-Missouri. With a legacy of over 70 years, Alewel's Country Meats has become known not only for their quality meats but also for their charitable donations to rural Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, the generous contribution by Alewel's Country Meats is inspirational to all of us. I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the outstanding commitment to our service members shown by the men and women who work there.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was detained on Thursday, July 15 and Monday, July 19, 2004. Had I been present I would have voted in the following manner: "Yea" on roll No. 385, "nay" on roll No. 386, "yea" on roll No. 387, "nay" on roll No. 388, "nay" on roll No. 389, "nay" on roll No. 390, "yea" on roll No. 391, "yea" on roll No. 392, and "yea" on roll No. 393.

HONORING THE 32ND MILITARY POLICY COMPANY

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize before this House the courageous soldiers of the 32nd Military Police Company, who tomorrow will return home to Wisconsin after spending 16 months fighting for peace and stability in Iraq.

In the face of constant danger, the members of the 32nd helped pave the way for Iraq's steady march toward democracy. Throughout their tour, these brave men and women provided vital security in and around Baghdad, and helped train the new civilian Iraqi police force. Their tireless efforts proved instrumental in helping the new Iraqi government take control of their fledgling democracy, and their sacrifice reminds us all that freedom is not free.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to the 32nd Military Police Company. With 23 Purple Hearts awarded, their unit suffered more injuries from hostile action than any Wisconsin National Guard unit since World War II. On behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, and a grateful nation, it is my honor to recognize and welcome home these great Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 2004, I inadvertently missed rollcall vote 357.

I would like the record to show that, had I voted, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ROGER B. BROWN (RET.) AND MR. E. PAUL VOORHEES

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate two prominent members of the Columbus, Georgia community, Army Ranger, Major Retired Roger B. Brown and Mr. E. Paul Voorhees for being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on July 8, 2004 at Fort Benning Army Base in Columbus. These two extremely worthy inductees have made endless lists of astonishing contributions and are recognized for this reason. The Ranger Hall of Fame honors and preserves the legacies of America's most extraordinary Rangers and friends of the Army Rangers. They signify selfless sacrifice, professional excellence, and remarkable accomplishment in the defense of the greatest nation in the world and to the highest ideals of service. These gentlemen stand as examples to all professionals.

In addition to Ranger Brown's many accomplishments, he is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his phenomenal service as a Non-Commissioned Officer NCO and Officer in the modern Rangers. During the Vietnam War, Ranger Brown served three combat tours as an NCO in Ranger Units. He also served numerous tours with the Ranger Department. Ranger Brown served as team leader with both the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Long Reconnaissance Patrol and with the 101st Airborne Division's F/58th Infantry. His exploits are recorded as legend. His teams' accomplishments were those by which others were judged. Ranger Brown served with the F/58th Infantry, those who served with him still admire his leadership qualities of understanding and compassion supported by the highest standards of fitness, discipline, training, and morality. He attended Officer Candidate School where he received a Commission as a 2LT in the Infantry, he retired at the rank of Major. Distinguished as an outstanding Ranger, everyone who served with Ranger Brown had only the highest regard for him. Sergeant Major of the Army Retired, Julian Gates, has stated that "Roger is a great American, a great Ranger, a great soldier leader." For many, Ranger Brown has always followed the Rangers motto and "led the way."

Mr. E. Paul Voorhees, a licensed, ordained minister, is renowned for his selfless sacrifice. Serving the children and the underprivileged, his compassion is celebrated in the Valley Rescue Mission in Columbus, Georgia. In 2003, he traveled at his own expense to Amman, Jordan, and Baghdad, Iraq to visit with and minister to the troops during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served on the National Staff, Royal Rangers, Assemblies of God, from 1967 to 1985. He has also been a partner-in-education at Stowers Elementary School, Fort Benning. He received a proclamation by the Mayor of Columbus, along with many other community citations, he has earned the Fort Benning's Commander's

Award for public service and the St. Maurice Medal. Paul currently serves on the board of directors, National Infantry Association, is a member of the Association of the U.S. Army AUSA, a charter member of the Georgia Sheriffs's Association chaplain's division, and is a chaplain and reserve deputy in Harris County, Georgia.

His store, Ranger Joe's International has grown under his leadership with the worldwide distribution store in Hinesville, Georgia, and two stores in Columbus. Mr. Voorhees was selected as "Small Business Giant, 2003" by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Voorhees is a brilliant example of what U.S. Army Rangers epitomize—excellence in leadership; excellence in performance of duties; and excellence of character.

I congratulate Major Roger B. Brown and Mr. E. Paul Voorhees for their outstanding performances and contributions to the United States Army Rangers. They are a tremendous source of pride and inspiration to all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REPLACE THE PROVISIONS OF LAW MAKING REEMPLOYED ANNUITANTS INELIGIBLE FOR PHYSICIANS COMPARABILITY ALLOWANCES AND SPECIAL PAY FOR PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to provide rehired annuitant physicians eligibility to receive a Physicians Comparability Allowance (PCA) and Physicians Special Pay (PSP) under Title 38. This bill would aid in the recruitment and retention of qualified physicians to the federal workforce.

The PCA and PSP are both mechanisms by which federal agencies can provide physicians allowances when these agencies are experiencing recruitment and retention problems. Currently, civilian rehired annuitant physicians are prohibited by law from receiving these benefits. However, retired military that join the civilian federal workforce are currently not subject to an exclusion from the PSP and PCA.

We are all aware of the possibilities of a shortage of federal employees due to an aging federal workforce. We must begin now to ensure that we have available pools of talent to replace the current workforce. We must make the Federal Government a viable option for talented and committed Americans. This legislation will provide additional flexibility and authority for attracting and retaining experienced physicians to the federal government.

This issue was brought to my attention by my constituent, Dr. Nancy Scher, who is a Medical Officer in the Division of Oncology Drug Products, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Scher is prohibited by law from receiving a PCA or PSP in her current position at the FDA because she is a reemployed civilian annuitant.

Dr. Scher spent 20 years as a part-time physician at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Huntington, West Virginia while also em-

ployed as a full-time Professor of Medicine at Marshall University. At the VA, Dr. Scher provided a high level of specialty medical care to veterans in a part of the country and at a time when this was a scarce resource. Because of her increasing duties as Chief of Hematology-Oncology at Marshall University, Dr. Scher took an early retirement from the VA with a deceased retirement benefit.

Dr. Scher is devoted to her craft and being denied PCA and PSP will not prevent her from continuing her position at the FDA. However, the law should be changed to make her eligible for these allowances. It would be a shame for the Federal Government not to give highly skilled and experienced physicians like Dr. Scher all the possible advantages available to stay in the federal workforce. The FDA currently pays a PCA and PSP to younger and less experienced physicians. Dr. Scher, as a rehired annuitant is prohibited from receiving these benefits.

Thousands of federal employees over the years have been responsible for breaking new ground in science and medicine. We must continue this tradition by ensuring that the Federal government becomes the employer of choice for scientific and medical talent.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL DONALD R. CURTIS, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Donald R. Curtis, Jr. is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

Colonel Curtis' outstanding service to the nation has been marked by meritorious service in increasingly demanding command and staff positions in both the United States and overseas. Throughout his career, Colonel Curtis demonstrated strong, outstanding executive ability, and dedication to the spirit and mission of the United States Army.

Colonel Curtis was commissioned from the United States Military Academy in 1979. He is a graduate of Ohio State University, holding a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He also graduated from the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses School, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States War College. He is a registered Professional Engineer as well.

Colonel Curtis served in command and staff positions over the past twenty-five years. He served as a platoon leader in the 902nd Engineer Company (Assault Float Bridge) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He was commander of B Company, 44th Engineer Battalion in the Republic of Korea. Then he did a tour as Assistant Resident Engineer for the Fort Leonard Wood Resident Office, Kansas City District. He served as Battalion Operations Officer, 12th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division at Mannheim, Germany, and served in a joint assignment with the Defense Intelligence Agency. He was the commander of the Walla Walla District from 1996–1998, and then did a tour on the Army Staff. He now is retiring from the Army after having served his last assignment as the District Engineer for the Fort

Leonard Wood Resident Office, Kansas City District.

Colonel Curtis's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Donald R. Curtis, Jr. for his exceptional commitment to the United States Army and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL OTTO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man named Bill Otto who epitomizes the true cowboy in the spirit of the west. He has led an amazing life and I am privileged to stand here before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize his accomplishments.

Bill comes from a rich western history where he grew up on his father's ranch that had been homesteaded since 1904. His family had been in the ranching business for years and his grandmother used to cook for Teddy Roosevelt and helped bury Calamity Jane. As Bill's brothers and sisters went to school, he trained horses, and by the time Bill was fifteen he was rated as one of the best horse trainers in North Dakota.

Bill gained a reputation for riding the wildest horses as he spent the summers working for the Civilian Conservation Corps. After running the family ranch for a short period at age eighteen, Bill moved to California. He earned his living by grooming horses and working at a boarding stable, and later for a company that owned and rented horses used in the movies. Through a stroke of luck Bill ended up filling in for Jack Conners in a film with Roy Rogers. In 1943, Bill left Hollywood to work at a thoroughbred ranch in Valejo, California where he met his first wife Rella. Bill has spent the remainder of his life working in the Rodeo, training horses, and raising his four kids.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Otto is a talented horse trainer and dedicated family man who brings the heart of the west to life. I am honored to recognize Bill for his great zest for life and his dedication to keeping western traditions alive, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD J. O'NEAL, JR.

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. O'Neal, Jr. of the United States Air Force.

LTC O'Neal was sent to Khobar, Saudi Arabia, to evaluate a maintenance training pro-

gram of the Royal Saudi Air Force. On May 29, 2004, he had just finished eating breakfast at a coffee shop with a colleague, LTC James Broome III, when a group of terrorists attacked the civilian complex where they dined.

Unarmed and in search of safety, LTC O'Neal and LTC Broome headed toward the roof of a nearby building. On the way, the two soldiers came across four civilian contractors who were doing construction on the third floor of the building. LTC O'Neal and LTC Broome informed the workers of the terrorist attack below and safely escorted the civilians to the roof, where the men barricaded the door with a tool box and rocks. Amid the turmoil and gunfire, LTC O'Neal had the presence of mind to use his cell phone to gather information from other Americans he knew were in the complex and relay it to his operations center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The six men remained on the roof, waiting out the attack, for nearly twelve hours with only one water cooler they brought from the third-floor construction site. During that time, the soldiers rationed only one sip of water to each man every hour, in temperatures that reached 120-degrees Fahrenheit.

Once the group on the roof was told the terrorist forces had been isolated in another building of the compound, LTC O'Neal led the group down to the ground floor. At the bottom of the stairs, LTC O'Neal was approaching a steel door that opened up to the street when one remaining terrorist fired a machine gun at him, hitting him four times and also injuring LTC Broome. LTC O'Neal was shot in the left arm, right shoulder, right thigh, and in the torso. Crawling into a space under the stairway, LTC O'Neal remained hidden for 1½ before finally being assisted by a Saudi defense official.

American soldiers like LTC O'Neal put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis to prosecute the Global War on Terrorism and to protect the freedoms and ideals that we as a nation cherish. For his bravery and valor, and for the wounds he received in action on May 29, 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. O'Neal, Jr. will be awarded the Purple Heart.

It gives me great pride to know that LTC O'Neal will be awarded this meritorious distinction. The Purple Heart is the oldest presently used military decoration in the world, dating back to its first use in the American Revolution. In the summer of 1782, General George Washington was ordered by the Continental Congress to cease granting commissions or advances in rank to soldiers in recognition of outstanding valor and merit. Shortly after, in his General Orders of August 7, 1782, General Washington directed that "whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding." He concluded, "The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered a permanent one."

Specifically a combat decoration, it gives me great pride to know that LTC O'Neal will receive this high honor, the Purple Heart, on August 4, 2004. LTC O'Neal embodies the spirit of those who serve and fight to keep America the greatest light of freedom the world has ever known. I thank LTC O'Neal for his brave service and selfless sacrifice. He is a patriot

and a hero. May God bless LTC O'Neal and his family, and may God bless America.

HONORING WISCONSIN STATE
TROOPER LES BOLDT

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize before this House, Wisconsin State Trooper Les Boldt, whose heroic efforts recently saved the life of a woman who tried to take her own life by leaping off a bridge in Green Bay.

After receiving notice from dispatchers that an area resident suffering from depression was potentially suicidal, Trooper Boldt set out to find the woman and check on her welfare. Upon locating her car, a high-speed chase ensued that led the two to the top of the Leo Frigo Memorial Bridge, at which time the woman stepped out of her car and attempted to jump off the 200-foot tall span. Realizing what was about to occur, Boldt ran from his patrol car and caught the woman's arm just after she leaped off the bridge, saving her from almost certain death. After a struggle, Boldt and two other law enforcement officials were able to safely pull the woman back over the edge, giving her a second chance at life.

Mr. Speaker, by selflessly putting his life on the line to save one of his fellow citizens, Trooper Les Boldt showed us all what it means to be truly courageous and heroic. His actions deserve our praise, and on behalf of the residents of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I say thank you and keep up the great work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 15, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and missed a rollcall vote. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 388.

COMMEMORATING THE SUCCESSES
OF THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY
(JWOD) PROGRAM

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program because it epitomizes what our country has long stood for—giving everyone an equal chance.

Employment fuels the United States economy and builds our communities. Sadly, people with disabilities are often overlooked when it comes to finding jobs. Those with disabilities face a 50 percent unemployment rate, which

is more than 10 times the national average. These are people who can work, and want to work, but who face transportation, environmental, and attitudinal barriers when it comes to finding the employment that will allow them to become self-sufficient, independent members of society.

Hiring a deserving, qualified individual with a disability creates a positive synergy that ripples out to the greater community in the form of reduced dependency on welfare. There are 45 million Americans with a disability, many of whom are forced to rely on public welfare because they have not been able to find employment. Of people with disabilities, some 5.2 million receive Social Security Disability Insurance, 3.5 million receive Supplemental Security Insurance, and 1.3 million who receive both. By tapping into the potential of a person with a disability by offering them an employment opportunity, we can help them to become tax-paying citizens that can help power America's economy and strengthen our communities.

That is why I am proud to commend the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program, which provides employment opportunities where they are needed most—to Americans with disabilities.

The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities, which allows them to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence.

The program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide and last year generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 972 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD. I am pleased that these JWOD contracts have had such a positive impact, and hope that this is only the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the JWOD Program and encourage my congressional colleagues to do the same.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH
ANNIVERSARY OF PEMBROKE, GA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate Pembroke, Georgia on its 200th Anniversary in 2004. I'm honored to represent this vibrant city and to call many of its residents my friends.

Historic downtown Pembroke is named for Pembroke Williams who was a judge and a prominent local resident in the late 19th century. The historic district is located in the central business district of this city of 2,500 persons and is characterized by its relationship to the Georgia Central Railroad, which bisects the town. It was founded as a farming town, like so many similar towns which sprouted during that time to serve the agricultural needs of the nation. The layout of the town around the railroad hearkens to a time of great growth, industrial zeal and expansionism.

Pembroke found a thriving life serving the trains that led to the great markets of the coast.

The majority of the structures in the district are of 1930s and 1940s vintage. The city also consists of several blocks of early 20th-Century commercial and government buildings. With the exception of a few buildings, all of the buildings are of one or two stories in height, and most of the buildings are brick or brick-faced buildings with pine timber construction.

The buildings in the district are a variety of styles and materials, all dating from the early to mid 1900s. Most are brick one and two-storied commercial buildings and originally had wood or metal awnings over the windows. Today, the buildings show architectural niceties such as terra cotta embellishments, carved cornerstone, and marble commemorative plaques that reflect the pride of simple rural businessmen in their buildings and in their town. The most interesting structures architecturally are the Pembroke Millworks building and the Food bank building. Most of the buildings in the district are in good condition and are currently in use as publicly owned property.

The historic district of Pembroke was created to serve the agricultural needs of the nation in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The layout of the town around the railroad, the plethora of commercial structures crowding the verges of the railroad property, and the prim, stolid storefronts of the respectable buildings all hearken to a time of great growth, industrial zeal and expansionism in American history.

The history of Pembroke is the history of early American commerce. Founded as a railroad depot, Pembroke found a thriving life serving the trains that led to the great markets of the coast. When the trains stopped coming and the commerce declined, the town faltered, but managed to remain alive through the tough years. Now on the verge of explosive re-growth as a bedroom community to Savannah, Pembroke is seeking to retain its heritage, while finding new vitality in the influx of new residents.

Much of the historic district, once the province of private industry, is today publicly owned property. The buildings themselves, and their changing uses over the years, offer a glimpse into the working of local government of the last century. At the same time, several of the buildings—the "Welcome Center," the old Jail, and the Tos Theater to name the most prominent—retain elements of some of the more grim elements of its past . . . the stark conditions of prisoners in the jail, the segregated seating in the old theater, the peculiar design of the "Welcome Center" (with slit windows giving the police officers a vantage on the entire downtown.)

The Tos Theater, founded by G.S. Tos, was a quintessential example of the small-town movie palace. Without even a concession stand (candy, popcorn, and sodas were obtained from the drugstore soda fountain next door), the Tos Theater nevertheless was an important social gathering place for the town. With segregated seating (the toilet facilities), the building also recalls some of the social conventions of the 20th Century South, conventions which are fast fading into the past, but should be recalled and recognized.

Pembroke's Historic District is a landscape defined by transportation. First by the railway,

which gave the town its reason for existence and its livelihood for much of its history. Second by horses and mules, the dependence on which beasts of burden helped to define the layout of the city. Third by the car, highways for which have provided the lifeline for the city, keeping Pembroke connected to its larger neighbors for much of the latter half of the 20th Century. The highways—Hwy. 67, Hwy. 119 and Hwy. 280—which converge in Pembroke will help to define its future, as they have its past.

I am proud to recognize Pembroke, Georgia on this its 200th Anniversary. This town has provided much to the state of Georgia and I am proud to have represented it in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO NESHANNOCK HIGH
SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Neshannock High School baseball team, this year's Class A Pennsylvania State Champions. Head coach, Michael Kirkwood led the Neshannock Lancers to the State Championship game, where they defeated the Muncy Indians by a score of 8-4. The Lancers ended the season with an impressive 23-1 record.

I am happy to see such spirit, dedication, and teamwork flourishing in the congressional district that I represent. I wish the members of 2004 Neshannock baseball team continued success.

I am proud to have such talented young athletes in the 4th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in recognizing their great achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall vote 406. It was my intention to vote "yes" on rollcall 11 No. 406.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
PASSENGER SAFETY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to return to private airline screeners, now is the time to continue to focus on passenger safety.

This November, airports will be given the option to apply to opt-out of having Transportation Security Administration TSA screeners in favor of hiring private screeners. If this is allowed to happen, it will be a step backwards in airline security.

TSA has only been in existence for a few years and has certainly suffered through some growing pains. Because of this, we should be focused on ensuring the success of TSA rather than adding the new challenge of privatization that could jeopardize their future and potentially endanger the security of airline passengers. That is why I am introducing the Passenger Safety Act which will repeal the opt-out language in the law that created the TSA. I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative to protect passenger safety.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AILEEN
WARFIELD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Aileen Warfield of Pueblo, Colorado. Aileen recently passed away at the age of seventy-eight. She will be remembered for her commitment to her family and her contributions to her community. I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing her life and her memory before this body of Congress and this nation.

Aileen's passion was working at her candy store, Nettie's Colorado Candies. The origins of Nettie's Colorado Candies can be traced back to the 1930's, and Aileen and her husband, Ray Warfield bought the candy store in 1971. They had no experience in the business, but Aileen wished to undertake the challenge of owning and operating a small business. Once the Warfields assumed control, they made it into a family business employing most of their children over the years. What originated as a hobby, turned into a busy job. Aileen worked six days a week and was an active member of the RCI, the Retail Confectioners International.

Aileen dedicated her time and energies to her family and her community. She was a member of the Mesa Junction Association, a board member of the Parade of Lights committee and the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, Aileen Warfield was a beloved member of her community and I am honored to remember her life today. Her work ethic and friendly face at the candy store will be sorely missed in the Grand Junction community. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Aileen's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and missed three rollcall votes. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 391, 392, and 393.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR,
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, DONALD PAYNE, and the members of the Congressional Black Caucus for their leadership in bringing H. Con. Res. 467 to the floor so quickly. The resolution, which I am proud to co-sponsor, accurately labels the situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan as genocide, and calls upon the United Nations to take action to prevent it.

Mr. Speaker, millions of people in Darfur face a life-threatening crisis. Through actions of militias supported by the Sudanese government, villages have been burned, crops destroyed, and people uprooted.

Tens of thousands of people have already died. Without prompt and effective international action, the death toll will soon go much higher.

The Bush Administration has appropriately increased public awareness, in the United States and throughout the world, about what is at stake in Darfur, and this resolution acknowledges that.

But it calls upon the Administration to do more. A decade ago, the international community did not act quickly enough to prevent the horror of Rwanda. We must not see a repeat of that tragedy in Darfur.

Sustained and effective leadership by the United States will be necessary to achieve that goal.

The rainy season has arrived in Darfur, and the level of misery is increasing. The Sudanese are not acting quickly enough to implement promises they made to control the militias and facilitate the delivery of relief supplies.

Passage of this resolution should heighten the sense of urgency and sharpen the understanding of the Sudanese government of the resolve of the United States on this urgent and critical matter.

I urge the adoption of the resolution.

URGING GOVERNMENT OF
BELARUS TO ENSURE DEMO-
CRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND
FAIR ELECTION PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 652 which urges the Government of Belarus to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for its parliamentary elections in October 2004. As the sponsor of the Belarus Democracy Act (H.R. 854), which has also been reported out by the International Relations Committee, it is important that the House call specific attention to these upcoming fall elections. Mr. BERUTEER, in his capacity as Chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Europe, has lend his support of the Belarus Democracy Act as well.

Belarus' poor track record with recent elections—which were judged as not meeting international democratic standards by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe—and more broadly with the situation with respect to human rights and democracy in Belarus, underscore the need for this resolution. Belarus, under autocratic ruler Alexander Lukashenka, has the worst human rights record in Europe today. Repressions against members of the democratic opposition, non-governmental organizations, the independent media and independent trade unions have become commonplace. Independent thought and action are anathema to Lukashenka, who over the last 10 years has consolidated his power to an alarming extent.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Belarusian authorities will take this resolution seriously, as it provides them with a blueprint on what they need to do to have their elections conform with OSCE standards. Unfortunately, four benchmarks for free and fair elections established by the OSCE 4 years ago still not been met. Thus far, the pre-election environment has not been encouraging. Last month, three opposition parliamentarians staged an 18-day hunger strike demanding changes in the Election Code, which still includes several undemocratic provisions. The reform bill was overwhelmingly defeated by the Lukashenka-controlled parliament.

Belarusians still have no opportunity to receive independent viewpoints through broadcast media. Opposition access to the state media is virtually non-existent; rather the political opposition is often vilified. Just yesterday Lukashenka, talking about his hopes for a pro-government majority in the October elections, said: "I strongly hope that the people will make the right choice," and added that "the people will take a close look at traitors, black sheep . . . wolves in sheep's clothing, and we will help them if they don't." This is not a good harbinger for the elections—and the election campaign has not even begun!

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we convey to the Belarusian authorities our call for a free, fair, open and transparent parliamentary election process consistent with Belarus' freely undertaken OSCE commitments. The long-suffering Belarusian people deserve no less.

STOCK OPTION ACCOUNTING
REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Chairman, as a cosponsor of H.R. 3574, the Stock Option Accounting Reform Act, I urge my colleagues to support passage of the bill. In order to remain competitive in today's difficult economy, America's small businesses need the flexibility to choose how to treat their stock options, and I am pleased that Congress is acting today on legislation that maintains the discretionary nature of expensing stock options. If Congress were to do nothing and allow the mandatory stock option expensing proposal to take effect, America's small businesses—especially high tech firms—would suffer.

Particularly for the high tech sector, stock options are critical to attracting employees to

new, start-up companies. Requiring companies to expense their stock options would compel many small firms to stop offering the options altogether, forcing some to give up the primary tool used to attract the best employees. Start-up firms would be especially hard hit because it would be increasingly difficult for them to raise capital.

At a time when U.S. industries are losing jobs overseas, mandatory stock option expensing would put small American companies at an even greater disadvantage. Many foreign competitors offer stock options to create talented work pools. By passing this legislation today, we will ensure that U.S. businesses remain competitive and avoid additional incentives for U.S. firms to move jobs overseas.

We need to maintain a balance between increasing transparency to outside investors while not burdening technology firms with onerous reporting requirements. The Stock Option Accounting Reform Act will achieve and maintain that balance. For instance, this legislation requires increased disclosure by companies about stock option plans, stock purchase plans and similar incentive plans.

In addition, although the bill keeps the expensing of stock options as voluntary, in general, larger companies are required to expense the fair value of the stock options issued to their top five corporate officers. This proposal will allow each business to make its own decision on how to handle stock options issued to medium and low-level employees, while achieving a certain degree of transparency for investors.

H.R. 3574 bridges two potentially conflicting goals—rewarding hard work and ensuring transparency of corporate actions in the capital markets. Enjoying the fruits of one's own labor is a key component of the American Dream. For innovative and highly creative ventures like high tech, the rewards may be slow to realize—thus inviting the issuance of stock options, which will capture a company's future value.

I support the passage of the Stock Option Accounting Reform Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

CELEBRATING COTTAGE GROVE'S
SECOND ALL AMERICAN CITY
AWARD

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the City of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Located in my congressional district at the southern end of the beautiful Willamette Valley, Cottage Grove recently won its second All-American City award.

The Kalapuya Indians first enjoyed the riches of the southern valley, and the Oregon Trail opened the territory to other settlers in 1848. In 1863, gold was discovered in the mountains south of Cottage Grove, and mining activities continued into the 1920s, when the lumber industry became the economic engine. The City celebrates its exciting history every summer during Bohemia Mining Days. Today, this community of not quite 9,000 is blessed with a wealth of community spirit and "can do" attitude.

Cottage Grove is a vital community dedicated to possibilities. This town is not afraid to take and share responsibility for creating a better future. In fact, in Cottage Grove there is a strong sense of obligation to making dreams come true. The 1968 and 2004 All-American City Awards honor the community's commitment to excellence, cooperation, and creativity.

Only ten communities earn All-American City status each year nationwide. Cottage Grove is being saluted for a variety of accomplishments and three major projects—the new Cottage Grove Community Hospital, the formation of the Economic & Business Improvement District, and the recently completed Cottage Grove High School facility.

American anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Cottage Grove embodies this great notion, with friends, neighbors, government, businesses, and service agencies working together to get things done, and done well.

I am proud to represent Cottage Grove, and thank you for the opportunity to highlight "the little city that could."

HONORING RICHARD A. BLOCH,
BUSINESS PIONEER AND PHILANTHROPIST

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, Missouri citizens and all Americans mourn yesterday's passing of a great American, Richard A. Bloch—the "R" in H&R Bloch. Richard Bloch was an entrepreneur, philanthropist, beloved husband, devoted father of three and grandfather of 10, who exemplified personal and professional integrity. He was 78 years old.

Honored for his philanthropy and his second career as a crusader for cancer patients, as well as his success in creating one of America's most famous brands, Richard Bloch was born in Kansas City in 1926.

By age 12, he had founded his own small business providing printing services to Kansas City high schools. At 16, he entered the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania, the youngest member of his class. He graduated in 1945 with a degree in economics.

After graduation, Richard returned to Kansas City, married his wife Annette, and soon joined his brothers Henry and Leon in their bookkeeping business. A simple newspaper ad in the Kansas City Star in 1954, showing a man behind an eight ball, with the headline, "Taxes, \$5," stimulated a long line of customers that turned a sidelight of tax return preparation into a spectacular national success that made business history.

Today those first customers translate into one out of every seven individual income tax filers in America, served by over 125,000 employees at nearly 10,000 U.S. offices, and international clients in 11 countries. Tax planning and preparation have expanded to include financial, mortgage, accounting, and consulting services.

Over the last 50 years, well over a hundred million Americans have had their anxieties allayed by a Block-prepared tax return. Both Federal and State governments also benefit from accurate tax returns reflecting sound advice and professional preparation.

In 1978, Richard was diagnosed with lung cancer and told he had three months to live. Refusing to accept this prognosis, he sought treatment at the M.D. Anderson Center in Houston. Richard promised himself that if he survived, he would devote his life to helping others fight cancer. Cured after two years of aggressive therapy, he kept that promise, selling his interest in H&R Bloch to devote full time to cancer work.

Richard and Annette founded the R. A. Bloch Cancer Management Center and the R. A. Bloch Cancer Support Center at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. From 1980 to 1995, the Management Center offered Kansas City area patients a free multidisciplinary second opinion panel. The panel, including more than 100 physicians, helped patients identify the best cancer treatment available. The Management Center has served as a model for more than 125 centers nationwide.

Richard and Annette also founded the Cancer Hotline in 1980 and authored three books. Supported by volunteers who have had or are battling cancer, the hotline educates thousands of newly diagnosed cancer patients and their family and friends about available treatments. A Website, www.blochcancer.org, now assists. So do annual Fighting Cancer Rallies in more than 700 communities that raise awareness that cancer and death are not synonymous and that give victims faith that there can be life after a cancer diagnosis.

In my district and across America, Richard & Annette Bloch Parks for Cancer Survivors provide an oasis of peace for contemplation and inspiration, dedicated to Americans who have been diagnosed with cancer, each a tribute to life.

Richard Bloch's vision of a national network of cancer information led to the National Cancer Institute's Physician's Data Query. This Website provides information about state of the art treatment for every type and stage of cancer and all the current experimental therapies. To honor Richard's efforts, our government named a building at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, the R. A. Bloch International Cancer Information Center. Most government cancer information is disseminated from the Bloch Center.

In 1982, Richard was appointed by President Reagan to a six year term on the National Cancer Advisory Board. He was a member of the President's Circle of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and a former board member of the National Institute of Health's Office of Alternative Medicine. He also received the American Society of Clinical Oncology's 1994 Public Service Award and the 1995 Layman's Award from the Society of Surgical Oncology.

Richard would ask anyone who wanted to open an H&R Bloch office, "Tell me what you want out of life." He encouraged people to go where their hearts led them and to follow their passion. Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending heartfelt sympathy to the entire Bloch family—Annette; his three daughters, Linda Lyon, Barbara Stanny, and Nancy Linsley; his 10 grandchildren; brothers Leon Jr. and Henry and Henry's wife, Marion—as we honor the

memory of an American whose life is a testimonial to the values our Nation celebrates.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. On this occasion, we mourn those who lost their lives and remember the barrier created in 1974. Sadly, that barrier still exists today, and despite attempts by the United Nations for a reunification settlement, the island remains divided between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots. I thank Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. BILIRAKIS for their ongoing leadership in the Hellenic Caucus and for bringing much-needed attention to issues of importance to the Hellenic community.

On the occasion of this anniversary, in addition to mourning and remembering, let us also look forward. The events of this past spring represent great triumphs for the Cyprus state and reaffirm Cyprus's willingness and determination to become an integral part of both the European community as well as the greater global community. Just this past May, Cyprus joined the European Union and will enjoy all of the privileges and opportunities of full membership. Inherent in that membership is a commitment to the human rights and fundamental freedoms that underscore that partnership. Despite this step forward, the nation remains divided. As the Greek Cypriots steer their nation toward greater prosperity and legitimacy, the Turkish Cypriots continue to pursue division and isolation.

The government of Cyprus remains committed to reunification, as a bizonal, bicommunal federation with democratic and human rights for all Cypriots. In April, the people of Cyprus held a democratic vote on a reunification plan put forward by the UN. An astonishing 90 percent of the Greek Cypriot community turned out for this important vote. Yet, with 76 percent of Greek Cypriot voters opposing the plan, many in the international community were disappointed with the final outcome. What we must recognize is that any disappointment and criticism should be directed at the inadequacies of the reunification plan, rather than the free, democratic choice of the Greek Cypriots not to accept such a plan. Not only was the rejection of that plan an exercise of the democratic rights of the Greek Cypriots, but it further demonstrates their commitment to finding a viable and workable settlement.

In reflecting on this historic vote, we should heed the words of the Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos: "We are determined to try, until the end, in a peaceful manner and through negotiations, to end the invasion and occupation. The people should be brave, patient, and work hard." Patience in particular is tantamount to this endeavor. A lasting solution is not one that will be attained with the implementation of a rushed plan.

Both the recent accession to the EU as well as this recent democratic vote should give us

renewed determination to seek a full and peaceful reunification. Along with my colleagues, I will continue to put pressure on the Bush Administration and the international community to help Cyprus work toward a peaceful solution. Now more than ever, the U.S. must continue its role in supporting negotiations. It has been a long, hard road, but with support from the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations, a reunification of Cyprus is still within reach. Such a reunification would benefit us all. It would bring long-awaited peace and stability to the people of Cyprus, to the region, and to the larger international community.

Again, I thank my colleagues on the Hellenic Caucus for their recognition of this important event.

HONORING THE GOOD SAMARITAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Good Samaritan Christian Fellowship Church of Oakland, California for 50 years of ministry and invaluable service to the community.

The Good Samaritan Christian Fellowship Church was founded in 1954 as the Good Samaritan Baptist Church by the late Dr. & Mrs. R.D. Garrison, Sr., who led the ministry for over 30 years. In 1982, Dr. Garrison, Sr. placed his son Apostle and Mrs. R.D. Garrison, Jr. at the head of the church, and the ministry was subsequently established as the Good Samaritan Christian Fellowship Church.

Since that time, the Good Samaritan Christian Fellowship Church has played an active role in initiating and expanding a wide range of charitable and community building activities. In addition to ministering and counseling countless members of the community, the church has played a vital role in local youth mentoring and development. The church is responsible not only for organizing local Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs, but also for the creation of initiatives such as the After School Tutoring Program, which focuses on reading, writing, and math for children of all ages. Furthermore, the church has made extensive efforts in the areas of emergency meals and housing by working to provide food for the homeless, as well as shelter for countless families in distress.

From August 8th–15th, 2004, the Good Samaritan Christian Fellowship Church will be celebrating its 50-year anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending the church for the exceptional service it has provided to the community, not only in its capacity as an institution of faith and worship, but also as a leader in working to provide invaluable social and charitable services to the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of leadership and service throughout its fifty years of ministry, the Good Samaritan Christian Fellowship Church has contributed enormously not only to the Oakland community, but also to our shared goal of world peace.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOAL E. WOLF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Joal E. Wolf. Lieutenant Colonel Wolf distinguished himself as the Commander of the 3401st Military Intelligence Detachment and Chief of Staff of the Iraq Intelligence Task Force and Iraq Working Group of the Joint Staff at the Defense Intelligence Agency from April 2001 to May 2004. Lieutenant Colonel Wolf led daily operations in providing cutting-edge and time-critical assessments and trend analysis on military activity in and around the Iraqi theater in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lieutenant Colonel Wolf's leadership ensured over 4,000 tasks were completed efficiently and delivered timely to senior military and civilian leaders in the Department of Defense, White House and Congress. These intelligence products contributed significantly to the shaping of our national security policy and military planning, especially in the areas of infrastructure, economics, war crimes, sensitive site exploitation, anti-Coalition militants, weapons of mass destruction, and Coalition force protection. Lieutenant Colonel Wolf led his detachment to eclipse a bold 200 percent increase in production and in creating the Iraqi "55 Most-Wanted" deck of cards. For his service, Lieutenant Colonel Wolf was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal on May 28, 2004.

In addition to being a fine military officer, Joal is also my brother-in-law and a small business owner. Joal is the proud son of Mrs. Phyllis M. Wolf, a veteran of the United States Army, and the late Dr. Alan E. Wolf, who was also a veteran of the United States Army. My relation to Joal has allowed me to closely follow his selfless service and better understand the sacrifices that thousands of reservists and Guardsmen are making in the war against terrorism. I am personally grateful to Joal and all of the brave men and women in our military who are making tremendous sacrifices to serve our Nation during this difficult time.

COMMENDING THE RAOUL WALLEMBERG LIVING MEMORIAL AT THE AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for the American Swedish Institute's work to establish a Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The institute was founded by Swan J. Turnblad, a successful Swedish businessman in 1929. Mr. Turnblad donated his mansion to become an internationally recognized museum as well as the home to an educational center offering a variety of programs designed to celebrate the best of Swedish culture. Today the American Swedish Institute

seeks to develop a dynamic combination of educational opportunities and art that will honor, celebrate and perpetuate the legacy of one of the world's most courageous citizens, Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. Speaker, it was exactly 60 years ago that Raoul Wallenberg, a son of a distinguished Swedish family, risked his life during World War II, when he left behind the comfort, the safety and the security of neutral Sweden to travel to Nazi-occupied and war-torn Hungary to save innocent lives. Through his extraordinary bravery, ingenuity and compassion he saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust.

I believe that the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg's courageous actions during World War II that saved thousands of potential Holocaust victims in Budapest is worthy of celebration, preservation and a continued public dialogue. As an international hero, every child needs to know the story of Raoul Wallenberg, and how his choices can play an important role in their own lives.

The Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial intends to provide educational opportunities that celebrate the life, contribution, and spirit of Raoul Wallenberg, as well as other historic and current figures that embody Raoul Wallenberg's extraordinary courage.

The goal of the American Swedish Institute and the Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial is that every student will complete their Minnesota high school experience knowing the name and legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, and the impact one person's humanity can have. The American Swedish Institute will be the home of and catalyst for a nationally recognized educational program that inspires young American students to live by the vision and inspiration embodied in the life and example of Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. Speaker, Raoul Wallenberg will always stand as a reminder of the difference one person with courage can make and a great role model for the next generation who recognized that true satisfaction comes only from serving others, in this case in sacrificing his own life so others may live.

I am confident that the Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial will inspire young students by his story to become better, more unselfish, more caring human beings that are willing to transcend the barriers of race, religion, or nationality in their concern for others. It is therefore important to support projects like this so that the memory, legend and life of Raoul Wallenberg will not be forgotten. The vision he had for what one person can do in the face of injustice must be integrated in the moral fabric of every community, state, and nation.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, only a few-months ago the world honored the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide and promised never to tolerate genocide again. 10 years later we are witnessing another genocide, but this time in the Sudan. Since the

conflict erupted in February 2003, thirty thousand have died and close to a quarter of a million will die, if we do not act.

Sudanese government troops and their allied militia, the Janjaweed, have raped, tortured, maimed, and burned entire villages to cleanse the area of African Muslims. An estimated 1.2 million have been forced from their homes and into camps, where they remain vulnerable to attacks and lack basic services.

We must stop what is happening. It is Genocide, and under the requirements of the 1948 UN Convention, the world is obligated to act to stop it.

We must insist that the Sudanese government cease support for and disarm the Janjaweed militias and if it cannot, the UN Security Council must be persuaded to authorize force to do so.

The U.S. and world must target sanctions such as travel bans and the freezing of assets of Khartoum government officials responsible to stop the atrocities. We must find out why humanitarian aid is not getting through and ensure that it does.

Lastly, we must establish a Darfur Resettlement, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Fund so that those driven off their land may return and begin to rebuild their communities.

We must act now, if we are to prevent another Rwanda.

THE PATH TO GLORY: CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR, NAVY CROSS AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS AFRICAN AMERICAN RECIPIENTS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the setting for the 15th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus's Veterans Braintrust took place amid repeated inferences that the Congressional Black Caucus CBC and other Democrats were unpatriotic. Despite the CBC's determination to express its patriotism we support the troops while continuing to raise the volume of criticism about the current engagement in Iraq, and/or the War on Terrorism.

With this as the larger socio-political backdrop the Veterans Braintrust decided to invite some of our most heroic African Americans, their family members and advocates such as Sgt. Andrew Bowman, Asa Gordon, Elizabeth Rankin-Fulcher, Maj. Robert Greene, USA, Ret., John Howe, Steve Harris, Alonzo Swann, Jr., Allene Carter, CDR. Ross Fowler, USCG, Ret., Lee & Cornelius Charlton, Mark Pitts, Baba Henderson, Dr. Frank Smith, Jr., Betty Stokes, Mary Jones, and Isaac Prentice to Washington, DC as a special testimonial to our collective patriotism, sacrifice and valor on behalf of this great nation during her many times of trouble and conflict.

Thus, consciously choosing to illuminate some historical facts and advocate in effect that countless African Americans have served in America's wars, been shot, wounded and disabled, yet continue to be neglected, or denied quality health care and access to other benefits and services, including basic equal rights.

Equally important, the 15th Anniversary Veterans Braintrust National Issues Forum "The Path to Glory: The Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, and Distinguished Service Cross Recipients" also known as the pyramid of honor; and subtitled: "Revisiting the Battles of Sgt. Henry Johnson and Dorie Miller for the Congressional Medal Honor," was indeed a historic milestone. For the first time in our nations history the families of African American recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, along with awardees of the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) were gathered in one room. Additionally, the issues forum was exceptionally well attended with representatives coming from as far away as Albany, New York, Detroit, Michigan, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Los Angeles, California.

While the CBC represents 26 million African Americans, including more than 2 million African American veterans, we all recognize our country faces many challenges both within and without that is why Representative SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. D-GA and I felt a moral obligation, not a duty at this time to look back and reexamine issues from the past, closely related to the awarding of the military's highest awards for heroism and valor—The Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy Cross and Distinguished Service Cross.

Here again, the Veterans Braintrust which is widely recognized as the premiere forum for debate between veterans of African descent and government officials sought to examine some of the historically vexing issues, individual war narratives, and family testimonies associated with more than a century and a half of the awarding of the military's highest awards for bravery and valor.

To help provide a framework for this historical and contemporary analysis war/veteran narratives included the Civil War, Indian Campaigns of the 19th Century, and World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnam Conflicts of the 20th Century in the wake of growing criticism of US Foreign Policy, raising concerns about the fate of affirmative action, and the ever increasing African American health disparities.

Executive Director Ron Armstead laid the groundwork by researching William Raspberry's 'Two Heroes, No Medals of Honor' column examining two black war heroes quest for posthumous Congressional Medals of Honor: Sgt. Henry Johnson, a World War I Infantryman from Albany, and Seaman Dorius 'Dorie' Miller, a World War II hero from Waco, Texas. The column cited, although the military services, while not discounting their heroism, have steadfastly refused to go along with any attempts to grant Johnson and Miller the Medal of Honor. While countering, that although no black soldier was awarded the medal of honor during WWI, approximately 50 black soldiers were awarded the DSC, the Army's second highest award for valor in combat, for their extraordinary heroism in WWI. As a result, the number of black servicemen to receive CMH's for their heroism in the two world wars of the twentieth century remained zero until the 1990's.

Further, our war/veteran narratives revealed the Navy's reluctance to embrace black war heroes in 1944 met its timely demise 48 years later when Alonzo Swann, Jr., then 67, of Gary, Indiana stepped aboard his old ship the USS Intrepid, an aircraft carrier and accepted the Navy's highest award for bravery—the

Navy Cross. His medal came nearly a half-century after he and his African American shipmates in Intrepid's Gun Tub #10 shot down a Japanese kamikaze plane. However, his odyssey began October 27, 1944, when the captain of the Intrepid, Joseph Bolferger, recommended all seven survivors for the Navy Cross, just short of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award and conducted meritorious mast on board the ship for the men. Yet, when the commendations were sent on to Washington, they came back, with the men being given only Bronze Stars, or lower medals with no apparent explanation for the change.

Notwithstanding Swann's long, arduous and lonely court battle to receive the belated honor, it wasn't until 1997 that another of his shipmates Navy Petty Officer Robert Jones, by then 71, and a resident of Newport News, Virginia received his Navy Cross, again more than 50 years afterward in a stately ceremony held at the Capitol Building in Washington, DC, hosted by Congressman ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT (D-VA).

Furthermore, family testimonies revealed America in 1951 prior to the Brown versus the Board of Education decision was a very different place when Sgt. Charlton, who would have been 22, had he lived to his birthday, July 24, distinguished himself in battle to such an extent that he earned his nation's highest recognition for valor—the Medal of Honor. However, when his body was returned from Korea, his family was denied the right to bury his remains in Arlington National Cemetery with other Medal of Honor recipients. Sgt. Charlton was a war hero, but Cornelius Charlton was black.

Moreover, it wasn't until 1990, when the American Legion spearheaded an effort to locate the graves of all Medal of Honor recipients. Through their efforts Charlton's final resting place was identified as Bryant Memorial Park, which had become overgrown.

Yet, equally poignant, family testimonies revealed that it wasn't until 1997, a half century since WWII, and President Harry Truman who stood on the White House grounds and awarded 28 United States Medals of Honor to white soldiers for their outstanding valor that black soldiers who were denied the recognition accorded their white counterparts, were awarded the same honor—the Medal of Honor. During a White House ceremony former President Clinton presented the nation's highest military award for bravery to seven black WWII heroes, six of which were awarded posthumously. The only living veteran awarded the medal of honor during the ceremony was 77-year-old Vernon Baker, of St. Maries, Idaho. The other heroes finally awarded the Medal of Honor were: Edward A. Carter, Jr., John R. Fox, Wily F. James, Jr., Ruben Rivers, Charles L. Thomas, and George Watson. Attending the ceremony was retired Army General Colin Powell, who as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was the highest ranking African American in the military.

And now almost a century and a half after the end of the Civil War, a resurgence of interest and advocacy on behalf of legendary Harriet Tubman has gradually materialized, while on the other hand the first-ever memorials to honor black war heroes within: (a) the Commonwealth of Virginia is being planned; (b) the first national park monument was dedicated to

Mississippi Black Civil War soldiers; (c) a monument/memorial is being planned to honor the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts and their families; (d) a US Colored Troops USCT plaque dedication is being planned for Andersonville National Historic Site in southwest Georgia; and finally planning is underway for the North Chicago Memorial Park/Monument dedicated to the 100,000 men who went through the Great Lakes Naval Training Center during World War II.

Later that evening we gathered drenching ourselves in the richness of Black history and feeling mixtures of both pride and pain as we awarded, or publicly recognized, acknowledged and meaningfully remembered those who fought for people they had never even met. Something quite austere happened at the gala reception and award ceremony, which prompted many to say, 'I thought we did therapy that night,' and left others crying and emotional. We have given these awards annually over the course of the past ten years. This year our honorees included three categories: (1) individual awardees: Norma Baker, GSgt. Maurice Bingham, USMC, Ret., Celestine Caldwell Hollings, Paul J. Matthews, Cpl. Fred McGee, USA, Freddi E. Moody, Master Chief Vince Patton, USCG, Ret., Ed.D., Lt. Col. Charles H. Rucks, USMC, Ret., Isiah J. Williams, III, Master Chief Harold Wilson, USN, Ret., and Wallace Terry (Posthumous); (2) organizational awardees: the Center for Drug Abuse Research, Howard University, Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, Harlem Youth Marines, Inc., Morgan State University, The Association of the 2221 Negro Volunteers, WWII, and the 1279th Combat Engineers Alumni Association; and (3) historic groups and/or sites: United States Colored Troops Institute and Olustee Battlefield Historical State Park.

Finally, as we prepare our special 15th Anniversary report, after-action briefs and legislative proposals we must reiterate now more resolutely than ever before from the very beginning of independence "We were there," and despite the adversity, "We served!" Simply read the missing pages of American history, or perhaps the footnotes and you will find the names of Crispus Attucks, Salem Poor, Sgt. William H. Carney, Cpl. Andrew Jackson Smith, Harriet Tubman, Freddie Stowers, Sgt. Henry Johnson, Mess Attendant Dorius 'Dorie' Miller, Josephine Baker, Pvt. William Thompson, Sgt. Cornelius Charlton, Cpl. Fred McGee, Captain Riley L. Pitts, Staff Sgt. Hilliard Carter, and others, as well as thunderous places like Breeds Hill, Fort Wagner, Honey Hill, New Market Heights, . . . , Kunu-Ri, Hill 188, Hill 528, Hill 543, Pork Chop Hill, Hamburger Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, and others looming as silent reminders of past deeds, and debts unpaid.

Therefore, let it be said, here, now and forever more that African Americans have not once, not twice, but repeatedly demonstrated throughout this country's long history an unwavering dedication towards the principles of freedom, liberty and justice for all. This is the true testament of African American patriotism and looms as an outstanding example for current and future generations of Americans nationwide, as well as freedom loving people around the world.

The struggle continues.

HOMEPORTING OF THE USS
"RONALD REAGAN"

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the eve of the home porting ceremony of the USS *Ronald Reagan*, to welcome America's newest Aircraft Carrier and its crew to San Diego.

The USS *Ronald Reagan* CVN 76, our nation's ninth *Nimitz* class carrier, is the world's most advanced and most capable carrier ever built. The USS *Reagan*, along with its crew of 6,000 and its commanding officer Captain James A. Symonds, will give America greater capabilities to address threats to the safety of Americans and international peace and stability than ever before.

For most of the world's history, the oceans have been a dangerous and lawless place. For over 60 years, however, America's Navy has reigned supreme over the world's oceans. Today, our Navy ensures freedom of the seas for all nations who seek to use the world's shipping lanes for peaceful purposes. The USS *Ronald Reagan* enhances our Navy's ability to do its job.

For California, the USS *Ronald Reagan* will serve as a proud reminder of the legacy left behind by our former Governor and President. President Reagan understood the importance of maintaining a strong and effective military. Throughout his administration, which brought about a successful end to the Cold War, President Reagan rebuilt America's armed forces with a steadfast belief in the pursuit of peace through strength. Because of this legacy, it is entirely fitting that the most powerful and diplomatically visible symbol of the American Navy now shares both the name and home state of President Ronald Reagan.

The crew of the USS *Reagan* will find the San Diego community to be warm and welcoming. San Diego has a mix of many cultures and, as someone who moved my family here 20 years ago, I can assure the entire crew that San Diego is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to recognize Mrs. Reagan who will participate in tomorrow's home porting ceremony. The USS *Ronald Reagan* is a testament to the many great things Ronald and Nancy Reagan accomplished together. Ronald Reagan gave our nation hope and reminded us that with hard work and determination we could do great things. President Reagan may have moved on, but his legacy is as strong and steady as the ship that now bears his name.

HONORING THE MOSES AND
AARON FOUNDATION SPECIAL
FUND FOR CHILDREN

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a worthy organization, one committed to special children and their families. The Moses and Aaron Foundation's significant and enduring efforts deserve the highest praise, as do the philanthropists who have given of themselves to fulfill its mission.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation Special Fund for Children is dedicated to assisting children with disabilities and their families with a wide range of programs including social, physical, financial and wheelchair assistance, as well as counseling and guidance.

It also provides scholarship funding to educational institutions; collects; purchases; and distributes clothing for children in need and remembers them with presents at holiday time or when hospitalized.

In cooperation with Ballys Fitness Centers the Moses and Aaron Foundation under the direction of its President Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun, and Executive Vice President Yehuda Kaploun has been able to establish 27 physical fitness and therapy centers and has arranged for sound and musical equipment in other institutions.

The corporate and individual supporters of the Foundation, include Metropolitan Lumber, Bally Total Fitness, Mr. David Buntzman, Mr. & Mrs. Jarred Feldman, Mr. Robert Gans, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gans, Mr. Avi and Dr. Laura Greenbaum, Mr. and Mrs. David Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Rennert, Mr. Eli Rothman, Mr. Mark Selden, and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Feldstein. We recognize the special support of Ashley and Liora Herschman, recipients of the Dr. Steven Stowe Acts of Kindness Memorial Award, who by their contributions and kindness have brought happiness and a smile to the faces of hundreds of special children.

On Saturday night July 31, 2004 at the Sullivan County Community College, Lock Sheldrake, New York, the Moses and Aaron Foundation under the Honorary Chairmanship of Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, will sponsor its eighth Summer "Chazak—Strength" Concert honoring and paying tribute to special and outstanding children, and is produced by STB Jewish Music Productions. The Guests of Honor will be the Special and Outstanding children, many of whom will perform with the entertainers on stage. More than forty organizations and schools serving the physically and mentally disabled children will be represented.

The Chazak Concert and the Moses and Aaron Foundation's other programs demonstrate a caring and compassionate concern for the quality and dignity of life of others and merit the appreciation of all those who have benefited from its services.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation was founded in memory of Rabbi Dr. Maurice I. Hecht and Aaron Kaploun, both of whom led lives of exemplary community service. It is in this sentiment of communal dedication that the Moses and Aaron Foundation has devoted itself to serving the needs of a unique group in the community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Moses and Aaron Foundation, an organization which exemplifies the generosity of spirit in American society.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NORM D. COVELL

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mr. Norm D. Covell, a man with a great career in public service. For the past four decades, Norm has worked tirelessly to reduce air pollu-

tion and its affects on public health. Norm will soon retire from his current position as the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. As Norm's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate his distinguished career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding citizen of Sacramento.

After obtaining his bachelor of science degrees from California State University—Fresno, Norm began his environmental health and air quality career as a military preventive medicine specialist. Eventually, Norm would be appointed as the Assistant Director for the Fresno County Department of Health and Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer. During his two decades of service in Fresno County, Norm was instrumental in implementing a number of effective and innovative solutions to air quality management.

In 1984, Norm was named as the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. During this period, Norm has been deservedly recognized as a visionary and dedicated leader at the local, state, and national levels of government for his efforts in advancing programs and policies that significantly improve air quality.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District works cooperatively to coordinate the efforts of local, state and federal government agencies, the business community, and private citizens to achieve and maintain healthy air quality for Sacramento. This vision recognizes that the AQMD alone cannot achieve healthy air for Sacramento, but that combined with its regulatory role and its lead role in development of innovative programs, it can encourage the cooperative inter-agency and public effort that will be required to improve air quality. As the Air Pollution Control Officer, Norm oversees a dedicated staff of 83 positions and an annual program budget of \$19 million.

Norm was an instrumental force in developing an innovative market-based incentive program to reduce regional mobile source emissions. This program eventually became the model for the very successful Mayor Program that has been adopted throughout California. Norm also played a crucial role in creating the Business Environmental Resource Center that helps regional small businesses understand and comply with air quality, hazardous materials and water quality regulations. Throughout his career, Norm has demonstrated a consistent ability to increase awareness of air quality issues. Therefore, it is no surprise that so many of Norm's projects and ideas have gained national recognition and replication.

As a result of his sterling reputation in the field of air quality management, Norm has served in a number of important leadership roles. Norm was the President of the California Environmental Health Association from 1977 to 1979. Norm served as the President of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association from 1984 to 1986. From 1994 to 1995, Norm was the President of the National Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials. Norm's impressive resume is a testament to his status as one of California's most accomplished leaders in the field of air quality management.

In his retirement, Norm can look forward to spending more time with his family. Norm will

also devote more time to two of his favorite pursuits: fishing and his beloved San Francisco 49ers. I am confident that Norm would achieve great success and happiness in his retirement, just as he had throughout his professional career.

Mr. Speaker, as Norm's friends, family and colleagues gather to celebrate his great career; I am truly honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. The Sacramento region has benefited greatly from having Norm's strong leadership. He will be missed greatly by all who worked with him. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Norm continued success in all of his future endeavors, wherever retirement may lead him.

THE SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT FOR AMERICA ACT

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, a significant majority of Americans believes that current immigration levels need to be reduced, according to consistent polling results over the last decade. This country currently admits about one million new legal immigrants every year. An undetermined number come in illegally. Realistically, it will take several years to produce the comprehensive reforms that are needed. However, there is something that we can do now to improve the situation.

In 1990, immigration laws were changed to include a new diversity lottery program. The premise of this new program was to encourage more immigration from nations that were not already sending large numbers to the United States. Unfortunately, the current format for this lottery program are subject to fraud and abuse and leave our nation exposed to those who may seek to do harm on American soil.

Under this program, any applicant that applies under the current setup for this program may be chosen at random and given the status of a permanent resident simply based upon luck. We already have a tragic example of the potential for danger with the story of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the gunman who killed two people at the Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. The investigation of this shooting revealed that the gunman had been in the U.S. illegally, but his wife won the visa lottery. This enabled the husband to apply for permanent status and remain in the country to commit his crimes.

There are also a number of stories of fraud and abuse that have been identified by the Inspector General of the State Department. Duplicate applications, identity fraud, and forged documents have been found to be commonplace in these reviews, leaving our national security at risk.

The current diversity visa program does a disservice to our immigration policy and to those immigrants who have moved through the more traditional process that allows them to lawfully reside in this country. Combining this with the clear threats to our national security, it is imperative that we take steps to reform this dangerous program.

Legislation has been introduced that I have cosponsored, H.R. 775, the Security and Fairness Enhancement for America Act, which

would eliminate the visa lottery program. The House Immigration Subcommittee has held a hearing on the proposal, and we should continue efforts to move it promptly through the legislative process.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR,
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 467, a bill that declares genocide in Darfur, Sudan and I commend its sponsor for introducing it.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, genocide occurred in Rwanda. In a little over three months, 800,000 people had died and 2 million more had fled their homes while the U.S. and other nations stood by and watched, later promising that it would never let such a crime happen again.

Today, we have the opportunity to live up to our promise. We have the opportunity to perform our role as a contracting party in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. We have the opportunity to prevent the continuation of the brutal murders that have already taken place in Darfur, Sudan. 30,000 civilians have already been murdered, 130,000 more have fled to neighboring Chad, and around 1,000,000 more have been forced into refugee camps.

If we do not act immediately, the death toll will continue to rise. Estimates say that within the next several months, the death toll could rise to 300,000 people or more. We cannot stand by, watch, and once again promise that we will never let such atrocities occur. We have the opportunity to support H. Con. Res. 467, thereby declaring genocide in Sudan and urging the President to act immediately to alleviate this terrible situation.

Mr. Speaker, we must act immediately. I ask that we unite and support H. Con. Res. 467 to end the furtherance of these atrocious crimes against humanity.

WARSAW UPRISING 60TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMÉMORATIVE SPEECH

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on August 1, 1944, the greatest armed uprising by underground Europe against the German occupant began in Warsaw. The Warsaw Uprising lasted for 63 days and cost the lives of about 250,000 people. These two months of heroic combat serve as a symbol of courage, chivalry, the price of independence, but also of the harsh reality of world politics.

The Uprising was started by the Polish underground Home Army, which at the beginning of August had only about 20,000 poorly equipped soldiers, but over time managed to actively involve over 400,000 men, women and children. It was largely thanks to young

Polish Boy Scouts that messages between fighting insurgents were spread, medications were delivered and symbols of independence were painted on walls of buildings to show the people—and the Nazis—that Poland was fighting and would not bow to the overwhelming force of German troops, tanks, airplanes and artillery. Even German war correspondents noted that the intensity and difficulty of combat in Warsaw could only be compared to the street battles of Stalingrad, which greatly attributed to the fall of the Germans on the eastern front. The United States recognized the valiance of the Polish insurgents by officially proclaiming them military combatants on August 30, 1944.

Although a quarter million people died in the Uprising and the city was leveled to the ground on Hitler's orders, which showed the world how high a price Poland was prepared to pay for its freedom, the Poles did not gain full independence until 1989, 45 years after the Uprising's end.

The Soviet dictator, Josef Stalin, had a vision of a communist Polish state with a vassal government long before the Warsaw Uprising started. During the conference in Teheran in 1943, Stalin managed to convince the United States and Great Britain to shift Poland's borders west, thus reassuring his strong position and the authority to make practically unilateral decisions about the future of Central & Eastern Europe. In July 1944, the Red Army was within fifty kilometers from Poland's capital, but though their primary objective was to crash the Wehrmacht, they did not mean to liberate Poland, but to install a quasi-Polish government that had already been prepared in Moscow to rule in compliance with Soviet principles and under Stalin's supervision. The Home Army was seen as a perilous force, as it sought independence, therefore the communist propaganda denounced the Home Army led uprising as a "reckless and irresponsible adventure" to which the Soviet government could not lend its support. In fact, soon after the collapse of the Uprising most of Home Army officers and many soldiers were prosecuted and sentenced for treason. Ironically, had the home Army's commanders decided not to rise against the occupant, they would no doubt have been accused of collaboration with the Nazis and of cowardice. Having made the tragic decision to take arms against the oppressor that not long before had controlled most of Europe, the leaders of the Uprising had every right to expect support from their western allies. And they did receive it.

Airplanes flew from Italy across half of Europe delivering arms and other provisions to the insurgents, sustaining heavy casualties, but were not allowed to land on the Soviet side of the front. Not until September 18, 1944, two and a half weeks before the collapse of the Uprising, were over one hundred B-17 American flying fortresses able to appear above Warsaw to drop arms, medications and other provisions and then land on the Soviet side of the front. Unfortunately, it was already too late, as the areas of Warsaw in the hands of the Home Army had significantly diminished when compared with the first half of August, making it possible for the Poles to collect less than one-third of the dropped cargo.

The Soviets entered eastern Warsaw lying on the right bank of the Vistula River in the middle of September, but did not move into the center of the city, where the insurgents

were still fighting, having decided to wait until those who were willing to sacrifice their lives for Poland's independence have perished.

On August 1, sixty years will have passed since the outbreak of the bloodiest battle in over 1000 years of Polish history and one of the most heroic combats in the Second World War. Rarely has the price of freedom and independence been so high and the fate of those who paid it so tragic. For fifteen years now Poland has been a free country, a member of NATO for five years and since May, a member of the European Union. Its successful transition from an oppressive regime to a peaceful democracy proves the determination of Poles to be a free nation. Such courageous events as the Warsaw Uprising show that it is freedom they deserve. They surely earned it.

HONORING RICK HOYT UPON
RETIREMENT FROM FAYETTEVILLE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Fayetteville's Chief of Police Rick Hoyt, who will be retiring from the department at the end of the month.

A graduate of the Fayetteville school system and the University of Arkansas, Rick joined his hometown police force in 1976. His second day on the job was almost his last as a drunk driver hit him while he was directing traffic. He was thrown 69 feet by the impact and spent several weeks in a full body cast in the hospital. Initially, nobody was sure whether or not he would survive. Rick surprised everyone when he was back on the beat in less than 3 months, a testament to his strong spirit and desire to serve the public.

His dedication to protecting and serving the people of Fayetteville led to a series of promotions within the department. In 2002, he was named Interim Police Chief while the city of Fayetteville conducted a nationwide search to find a permanent chief. Within a matter of months, that search was called off and Rick was given the job. As Mayor Dan Coody put it at the time, "We are so satisfied with Chief Hoyt that I don't think we could have done any better."

For the next 2 years, Rick did a tremendous job leading the Fayetteville Police Department. My constituents and I are extremely grateful for service over the 28 years that he worked for the Fayetteville Police Department. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in thanking Rick for his service and wishing him all the best as he enters into a new phase in his life.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL
RULE OF LAW CENTER AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chairman BILL YOUNG and Chairman JIM KOLBE for including the International

Rule of Law Center at the University of Richmond as a program that will be actively considered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. This is an important step forward in our effort to enhance fair and judicial systems internationally.

Today, one of the most pressing needs in emerging democracies is to educate leaders who administer justice in the traditions of due process, transparency, accountability, consistency, and judicial independence. Only with an understanding of such values can leaders within a society go forward to create stable and sustainable justice systems that are critical to democracy.

With the aim of international stability in mind, it is in our national interest to foster a crosscultural exchange and understanding of the importance of law. The International Rule of Law Center at the University of Richmond will play a constructive role in accomplishing this goal by supporting the education of future judges in emerging democracies.

The International Rule of Law Center will educate approximately 20 foreign students in a 1-year program that culminates with the students earning a master of laws degree. The program will include many practical field experiences and trips, in addition to a curriculum that focuses on judicial administration, constitutional law, the theory of a sound and fair system of justice, and elements of international law.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Chairman BILL YOUNG and Chairman JIM KOLBE for their efforts, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

URGING GOVERNMENT OF
BELARUS TO ENSURE DEMO-
CRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND
FAIR ELECTION PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in support of H. Res. 652, which calls on the government of Belarus to ensure that Parliamentary elections which will take place in Belarus in October of this year are democratic, transparent and fair.

Thirteen years after the fall of communism, Belarus remains one of the few nations in Europe where the transition to democracy has not taken sufficient root.

The current political leadership continues to rule in an authoritarian manner and its government continues to crack down on those individuals and organizations who are trying to help build support for democracy and democratic institutions.

Unlike the situation in Ukraine, the government in Belarus has thus far not given any clear indication that it is committed to free and fair elections. However, in a recent meeting with the Ambassador from Belarus, this Member was led to believe that the government's position on the elections could be positive. The Ambassador gave assurances that the government would enforce the election codes and would allow all political parties to have representatives on the electoral commissions which oversee the implementation of the elec-

tions. He also indicated that Belarus would cooperate with the OSCE and would allow international observers.

At a hearing the Europe Subcommittee held in March on Belarus, this Member mentioned that Speaker DENNIS HASTERT and this Member met with the leaders of the Belarus opposition, collectively known as the Coalition Five-Plus, to discuss the elections and their vision for a democratic future for Belarus. This group of political parties has united in a common platform in an attempt to bring democracy and respectability back to the Belarus Parliament. Unfortunately, members of the opposition political parties and participants in political demonstrations continue to be subjected to increased harassment, surveillance by government agents, arrests, and physical abuse.

For these reasons, it is important that the United States Government, including this Congress, continue to emphatically express our strong support for free, fair and transparent elections and more definitive progress toward establishing a functioning democracy in Belarus.

In Europe, the situation in Belarus understandably seems to be of equal concern. The OSCE, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have all expressed deep concerns over Belarus and its forthcoming elections. In fact, this Member is informed that the Chair of the Belarus Working Group of the OSCE PA recently visited Minsk for additional discussions on the elections.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 652 emphasizes that if Belarus is ever to become more integrated into the community of democratic nations, it must work toward the establishment of a genuinely democratic political system in which the freedom of association and assembly are guaranteed. It also must be a fact that political candidates from the opposition will be free from political harassment and intimidation as they campaign for office and in which the media is free to act independently, free from government control or intimidation. Finally there must be a system in which elections and the electoral process are open, transparent and fair if Belarus wishes to be included in the community of democratic nations.

The parliamentary elections this fall will be a litmus test for President Lukashenko's commitment to democracy and the direction he intends to take Belarus in the future.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 652 rather precisely explains the concerns and recommendations of the United States House of Representatives.

I urge the adoption of the resolution.

REMEMBERING H.J. "BUBBA"
SHANDS, JR.

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2004, the City of Lufkin and the state of Texas lost a friend with the passing of "Bubba" Shands, Jr. Bubba was an invaluable member of the community in Lufkin for many years, and he will be sorely missed.

The Lufkin Daily News recently called Bubba a "a Lufkin icon" and "East Texas' fa-

vorite son." I think those are two fitting names for Bubba, but I also think there are many more that we could add to that list: husband, father, grandfather, brother, athlete, patriot, leader, believer, and always, great friend to all.

Hilliard Judge "Bubba" Shands was born on November 18, 1926 in Lufkin, Texas. He grew up as a highly accomplished student-athlete, first at Lufkin High School and then at the University of Texas.

Bubba began working in the banking industry in 1958, and continued working in that industry until 1991. He was a bank executive for First Bank & Trust (formerly Republic Bank) for many years, and he also served on the boards of several other financial institutions, such as First Bank of Conroe, Angelina Savings Bank, and Balcones Resources in Austin.

Bubba always realized the importance of community service and was involved with many volunteer and civic organizations throughout his life. He worked diligently towards the creation of Angelina County Airport and the Salvation Army's Adult Day Center in Lufkin, and he was also deeply active in the movement to fund and create Angelina College. He served on the board of the United Way of Angelina County, the Angelina College Board of Trustees, the Lufkin Rotary Club, and he was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Lufkin.

We pray for God's comforting spirit to be with his wife, Ann; his sister, Mary; his daughter Becky; his son, Jay; and his five grandchildren, Matt, Hill, Rob, Richie, Annie and Hunter.

Today, we honor the memory of a great East Texan, Hilliard Judge "Bubba" Shands, and we ask that we may all celebrate and enjoy life the same way Bubba did for each of his 77 years on this Earth.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
COPPER CREEK RECORDS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the 25th Anniversary of Copper Creek Records. Copper Creek Records was formed in October of 1978 when recordings were made to introduce an up-and-coming bluegrass band known as the Johnson Mountain Boys, a group that went on to become festival and concert headliners as well as pioneers in the resurgence of traditional forms of bluegrass music.

Early in the label's career, documenting the history of bluegrass and old-time music was of paramount importance. The company documented such events as live concerts, field recordings, and vintage radio shows by legendary artists such as the Stanley Brothers and the Carter Family, as well as Reno & Smiley. A number of these releases were cited by the Library of Congress for their packaging, content, and historical value.

Coupled with historic preservation, Copper Creek has been active in developing new, up-and-coming talent as well as providing an outlet to musically deserving artists who fly just under the "mainstream radar." Most recently, the label has been active in licensing vintage

country, old-time, and bluegrass recordings for the major labels.

Over the years, the label has released nearly 200 different recorded projects. In addition to producing CDs for release on Copper Creek, the label has been active in producing historical reissues for other groups and labels that have ties to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

By sharing the history of bluegrass and vintage music and remaining active in current musical styles, Copper Creek Records has enriched our nation's cultural and historic understanding. Again, congratulations to Copper Creek Records on their 25th year.

ANTONIO CHAVEZ HONORED FOR
30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Antonio Chavez and would like to recognize his extraordinary and tireless service to our community.

His first job with the County was in the Public Guardian's Office in 1974. Later, he was hired by Tom Guerin to work in Personnel's Affirmative Action Unit, and then worked in the Recruitment and Examining Unit as an Analyst. Antonio moved on in 1978 when he heard his true calling—job placement at Social Services. During his 15 years with JTPA, he focused on job development. In 1993 a new adventure began with the Gain Program, which later became CalWORKs. Later, at 1888 Senter Road Employment Connection, he earned the title, "Mr. Job Placement."

Throughout much of the time when he worked with GAIN/CalWORKs, he also held another position in the community for which he selflessly devoted long hours for many years: President of the Personnel Management Association of Aztlan (PMMA, now known as CHISPPA). This non-profit organization was truly a benefit to the Latino community, providing many professional development workshops for job seekers and scholarships for college students.

That organization also developed a mentorship/internship program that helped many college students and graduates gain valuable experience and employment. Under Antonio's leadership, PMMA also played a major role in the planning and implementation of many of Jobs America's Diversity Job Fairs.

Antonio Chavez has devoted his life to enrich and advance his community, and his contribution deserves to be honored to serve as an inspiration a new generation of San Jose residents.

I want to thank Antonio Chavez for his many years of service to our community and wish him nothing but the best in this next phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO GORDON AND MARY
ELWELL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a recent achievement of two people who, in celebrating their 50th year of marriage, have provided an inspiring example to all Americans. On June 5, 1954 at Holy Family Church, South Buffalo, New York sweethearts Gordon Elwell married Mary Mattimore. With not much more at the beginning to call their own except their marriage, their faith and vast opportunities afforded by this great country, Gordon and Mary have come a long way in the 50 years of marriage.

Gordon became a respected house builder in the Buffalo, New York area. Mary ran the household and tirelessly provided a loving and nurturing home environment for her husband and eight children. Throughout their incredible life together, Gordon and Mary have dedicated their lives to each other, their and children and grandchildren. To date they have been blessed with twelve grandchildren to spoil as only grandparents can.

In a society with one of the highest divorce rates in the world, Gordon and Mary have provided their children and grandchildren with a shining example of a successful marriage. It is all about hard work, a sense of humor and yes, a love that will not quit. Gordon and Mary have been truly blessed by the first 50 years of this magical marriage, and here's hoping that the best is yet to come. On behalf of my colleagues, let me join the many friends and admirers in wishing Gordon and Mary, and their family, all good fortune during the next 50 years.

WHEN "UP TO CODE" JUST ISN'T
ENOUGH

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, last year we saw an alarming increase in the number of fire related deaths in nursing homes. Fires at nursing homes in Hartford, CT and Nashville, TN claimed the lives of 31 residents, many of whom were elderly or bedridden.

In both cases, these buildings were considered "up to code," in that they met all fire codes and regulations applicable to their age and construction. These codes exempted both buildings from laws requiring them to be equipped with sprinklers because they were considered too old, and too costly, to retrofit. Most in the nursing home industry say this is an economic decision, that homes simply cannot afford the cost of retrofitting their facilities with sprinkler systems. The people of Hartford and Nashville, however, would say that this gap in fire protection is too high a cost where the safety of their loved ones is concerned.

With reduced mobility and health related impairments, the nursing home population is significantly more vulnerable in fire related emergencies. Although it has been repeatedly prov-

en that the presence of fire sprinklers significantly improves the chances of survival for older adults during a fire, the GAO reports that 20 to 30 percent of the approximately 17,000 nursing homes nationwide do not have an automatic fire sprinkler system. While some states have already taken action to ensure that their nursing homes are equipped with sprinklers, far too many lack such life saving and common sense requirements.

Today, even after last year's fires, there is no comprehensive federal standard for the inclusion of sprinklers in the nation's nursing homes. While the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services last year adopted the 2000 edition National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code, which required that new and renovated nursing homes be equipped with sprinklers, this new policy did not address the lack of sprinklers in already existing older homes. As a result, thousands of homes are allowed to operate "up to code," yet lacking a life saving sprinkler system.

Last week the GAO released a study on nursing home fire safety which concluded that "the substantial loss of life in the Hartford and Nashville fires could have been reduced or eliminated by the presence of properly functioning automatic sprinkler systems." The report also found that "federal oversight of nursing home compliance with fire safety standards is inadequate," and has led to inconsistent monitoring of fire safety standards, incomplete data on sprinkler coverage, and an alarming gap in nursing home fire protection. Above all, the report underscored the need for immediate action.

To this end, I have introduced the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act to eliminate the threat of fire for the 1.6 million elderly and disabled Americans living in nursing homes. Under this bill, all nursing homes participating in Medicare and Medicaid would be required to be fully equipped with automatic fire sprinklers within 5 years. With 97 percent of all nursing homes participating in these programs, this bill would protect the greatest number of Americans possible.

This bill also addresses what is generally seen as the biggest hurdle to installing sprinklers—the cost. Under my bill, any nursing home that has to pay to install sprinklers to meet this new requirement would be fully reimbursed through either Medicare or Medicaid. These reimbursements would be for the total cost of installing a sprinkler system, and would in no way impact any payment, service or program already offered through either program.

Although the 108th Congress is winding to a close, I feel it is important to introduce this bill now and take this crucial first step to begin a long delayed dialogue on nursing home fire safety. Many groups have been looking at this problem for over a year now, and will all undoubtedly have different ideas on an ideal solution. In light of the new information put forward in the GAO report, I look forward to working with them to improve this legislation and to find the best way to ensure that our nursing homes have the safety equipment they need to keep their residents safe from fire.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has turned a blind eye to this problem for far too long. "Up to code" is simply not enough when it comes to protecting the lives of our nation's nursing home population. The fires in Hartford and Nashville demonstrate the terrible and unacceptable consequences of allowing nursing

homes to continue to lack vital life saving safety equipment. It is time for Congress to take action to protect our nation's most frail and vulnerable, and prevent similar tragedies in the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in helping to make nursing homes in their districts, and around the country, safe from the threat of fire.

A SALUTE TO COACH GAYLE HATCH AND HIS SELECTION AS COACH OF THE U.S. OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, as many in this chamber now know, Coach Gayle Hatch of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will be the coach of the U.S. Olympic Weightlifting Team at the 2004 Summer Olympiad in Athens, Greece.

I can think of no one associated with coaching, even at the highest levels, more deserving of Olympic recognition. The Olympics is the venue where the best of our world's athletes compete and pursue the ideals of sportsmanship.

Hard work, hard work, and hard work are three of the most important elements of preparation. Talent is certainly important, but commitment to principle is essential. There is no other challenge to an athlete that holds out the highest standards of conduct, as the minimum standard for admission. This makes participation in the Olympics a rare honor. To be selected as a coach of such competitors is even more special.

It is likely that most in the House who listen to this text would assume it is written as a casual political statement to acknowledge Coach Hatch's recent success. Few would know of our long-standing friendship.

It was well over 20 years ago when I first brought my son Brandon to Coach Hatch's training facility. I thought well enough of him then to trust his guidance with my own son. To the exclusion of all other sports, Brandon trained with a commitment I have not seen before. Today my son is a hard working and disciplined person, in large measure due to the principles instilled in Coach Hatch's gym.

I also know the same is true for many men and women who have been part of the "Hatch" family. Whether in sports or other endeavors, graduates of the "Hatch School of Hard Work" always found ways to succeed in life. This is why I rise today to speak to my colleagues in the House.

Coach Hatch's contribution to the Baton Rouge and sporting community goes far beyond helping a talented young athlete finish in first place. Coach Hatch's work, by instilling principles of decency into young people, is of immeasurable value.

The Olympic Committee has selected Coach Hatch to lead young Americans in the most difficult athletic challenge they will likely ever face. This is a big deal. But I know that our team members will bring honor to America, because of their principled conduct which Coach Hatch will require. Their athletic success will only be an additional reward.

Long after Coach Hatch returns home from Athens, returning I hope, to coach more young

people, the awards and acknowledgments will continue to come. Some may be from an Olympic Committee, or an Olympian here or there, but hundreds will come from dads like me. We know, Coach Hatch, what you have given of yourself to help mold our children into principled and committed young adults.

Although it can't be found or put on a shelf, I hope you take pride in hearing all us dads say, "Thanks Coach".

For those who don't know Coach Hatch, it is worth noting that he has been active as a weightlifting and strength coach for more than 30 years, and the Gayle Hatch Weightlifting Team has won more than 40 men's Junior, Senior, and Masters national championships. Coach Hatch is a member of the USA Weightlifting Hall of Fame, the National Master Weightlifting Hall of Fame and the USA Strength and Conditioning Coaches Hall of Fame. He holds USA Weightlifting's highest certificate ranking, Senior U.S. International Coach, and is the director of USA Weightlifting's Southern Regional Training Center.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's stenographic court reporters and captioners as they celebrate the 105th anniversary of their association.

For centuries, scribes have captured the spoken word to record major and everyday events in recorded history. Shorthand reporters were vital to the preservation of our Nation's founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. We use them every day in Congress to record the proceedings of our body.

They also provide a valuable service in reaching the hearing-impaired by providing broadcast captioning through Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART). This service benefits millions of Americans every day.

Mr. Speaker, I join with other Members of Congress in honoring and celebrating the efforts of all stenographic court reporters and captioners on July 30, 2004, as they celebrate the 105th anniversary of their association.

FOOD ALLERGEN LABELING AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act. I would like to thank Representative NITA LOWEY for her leadership on this issue, and I would also like to thank Abby Giarrosso of Methuen, Massachusetts for bringing this important bill to my attention.

Abby and her family request a meeting with my office because Abby wanted to share her

experience as a child with celiac disease and to get legislation passed making it easier for her to eat safely. She shared letters that she had received from food companies in response to her requests for lists of products she could eat. The response letters were telling. Some gave her examples of gluten-free foods and others said that it was just too hard for them to break down their ingredients.

After Abby came in to my office, I immediately cosponsored the bill, and commissioned a certificate for Abby making her an honorary Legislative Assistant for her work to pass this bill into law.

Abby's story is so touching and compelling. At a birthday party she recently attended, they served pizza and cake and all of the children were given an assortment of goodies as party favors. She has a hard time in situations like that because while the other kids can eat the food, she has to just watch. Her parents do a fantastic job working around the problem. At the party they had her bring her own gluten-free pizza. It seemed reasonable to me that if manufacturers are going to sell products that have serious adverse health effects for a large number of consumers, the least they can do is disclose those ingredients.

The Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act will make it easier for people with food allergies to more easily identify a product's ingredients. By requiring food labels to list what, if any, of the eight major food allergens are contained in a product, the bill will protect people with food allergies from the risk of dangerous and even life-threatening reactions.

The bill will also help the estimated three million Americans who suffer from celiac disease, an autoimmune disease that's triggered by the consumption of gluten. The legislation instructs the Department of Health and Human Services to define what constitutes "gluten-free" food and how the term should be used on food labels. For those who suffer from celiac disease, like Abby Giarrosso, accurate and easy to read food ingredient labels are critical to their health and well-being.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

PROTECTING RAILROAD OPERATORS, TRAVELERS, EMPLOYEES, AND COMMUNITIES WITH TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 2004

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today my colleagues, Congresswoman BROWN, the Ranking Democratic Member of the Railroad Subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Congressmen LIPINSKI, DEFAZIO, CUMMINGS, BLUMENAUER, LARSEN, and MEEHAN, join me in introducing H.R. _____'s, the "Protecting Railroad Operators, Travelers, Employees, and Communities with Transportation Security Act of 2004," PROTECTS Act.

On March 11, 2004, a coordinated terrorist attack against the commuter train system of Madrid, Spain, killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,800 others, making it the deadliest terrorist attack against European civilians

since 1988. The attacks consisted of a series of ten explosions that occurred onboard four commuter trains.

If we learned one thing about terrorists from the Madrid attack, it is that they stick to what they know. Since 2000, bombs have been detonated or defused on railways in India, Russia, the Philippines, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Israel, and Germany. In France, a group calling itself AZF claims it has hidden 10 bombs around the country in order to extort \$5 million from the French government. The group demonstrated its credibility by suggesting investigators dig under a rail line; they found a small bomb powerful enough to derail a train.

Terrorist threats against trains in the United States are also increasing. Just last week, a Seattle man who was aboard a cross-country Amtrak train was charged with telephoning bomb threats against the train as it passed through Wisconsin. In May 2003, Lyman Faris, a truck driver from Ohio who pleaded guilty to providing material support to al-Qaeda, told investigators that the organization wanted to derail a train near Washington, D.C. Other intelligence sources report that al-Qaeda operatives have targeted the Washington rail corridor and that some have discussed exploding a train near storage tanks containing hazardous chemicals.

Recent news articles report that, due to increased security threats, New York and New Jersey have put together an "unprecedented" rail security plan for the Republican Convention, which includes conducting inspections on platforms, boosting canine units, locking restrooms, and banning overhead luggage.

With ever-increasing threats, our Nation's rail system is at great risk. Accordingly, the Federal Government needs a permanent rail security plan that assures the safety and security of all rail passengers.

The fact is that the Federal Government is spending \$4.4 billion this year on aviation security, but it's spending only \$65 million on rail security, even though five times as many people take trains as planes every day. The freight railroads have adopted some security measures and Amtrak has added police and dog units and removed large fixtures, such as garbage receptacles and vending machines, from their platforms, but the railroads can't do the job themselves.

The PROTECTS Act ensures that the Federal Government will do its part to take the necessary steps to address security risks on our Nation's railroads, while protecting rail passengers, rail workers, and citizens who live or work in the communities in which railroads operate.

The bill authorizes over \$1 billion to safeguard our Nation's rail network from terrorist threats. \$500 million is authorized for grants to State and local governments, railroad carriers, rail labor, and others for the full or partial reimbursement of costs incurred in preventing or responding to terrorist activities or other intercity passenger rail and freight rail security threats.

A total of \$597 million is authorized for Amtrak to make fire and life-safety improvements to tunnels on the Northeast Corridor in New York, New York, Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, DC. \$65 million is authorized for system-wide Amtrak security upgrades. This

funding is critical as Amtrak shuttles 66,000 passengers every day, two-thirds of them through the targeted Northeast corridor. Terrorist attacks on crowded stations and on key elements of the infrastructure are a particular cause for concern.

A total of \$50 million is authorized for the Secretary of Transportation to create a research and development program to improve freight and intercity passenger rail security. Funding is also provided for a vulnerability assessment of freight and passenger rail transportation and a study and pilot program on passenger, baggage, and cargo screening.

Moreover, the PROTECTS Act focuses on something other bills ignore: the importance of ensuring that key workers have the necessary support and training required to protect our rail system, whether those workers are railroad employees or emergency responders.

Rail workers are truly the eyes and ears of the rail industry. They greet passengers, sell tickets, operate trains, maintain track and signal systems, dispatch trains, operate bridges, and repair rail cars. They are in the most direct position to spot security risks and potential threats. The PROTECTS Act requires rail carriers to provide security training to these workers to ensure that they are prepared to recognize and react to potential threat conditions. Moreover, the bill strengthens whistleblower protections to ensure that workers who report or identify a security risk will not face retribution or retaliation from their employers. These protections are similar to the whistleblower protections provided to airline employees, except that this would allow a whistleblower to bring an action in the appropriate district court if the Secretary of Labor fails to issue a final decision within 180 days of the filing of a complaint. A rail worker should not have to choose between doing the right thing on security and his or her job. Despite whistleblower protections in current law, employees still experience employer harassment and intimidation when reporting accidents, injuries, and other safety concerns.

When I began reviewing the issue of rail security, I sent a letter, along with Congressmen HENRY WAXMAN and ELIJAH CUMMINGS, to the Government Accountability Office, GAO, requesting a review of ten communities to see whether they are prepared to respond to rail incidents involving hazardous materials, whether accidental or intentional. Accidents in urban areas, such as the 2001 incident in the Howard Street Tunnel in Baltimore, Maryland, involving a fire fueled by hazardous materials, and a leak in hydrochloric acid from a parked tank car in an urban area in Lowell, Massachusetts, have called attention to the safety of hazardous materials shipped by rail.

GAO found that many emergency responders were not properly trained to respond to incidents involving hazardous materials and radioactive waste. Local fire department officials that GAO visited in all ten communities confirmed that fire department personnel have received the awareness-level training, the lowest level of training recommended in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 472, Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents, which provides first responders with the knowledge and skills to identify a hazardous materials incident and to contact the appropriate response resource.

However, NFPA representatives reported that the minimum level of training for first responders should actually be at the operations level, the second highest level of training described in NFPA Standard 472, which trains responders to plan and initiate a response to the incident. The PROTECTS Act does just that, but it doesn't stop there.

GAO found that while local communities have most of the equipment needed to respond to hazardous material incidents, some locations lacked essential equipment, such as detectors, decontamination equipment, and personal protective gear. My bill addresses this need. It authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to State and local governments, as well as nonprofit employee organizations representing emergency responders, for advanced firefighter turnout gear.

The PROTECTS Act also ensures that emergency responders know the types and quantities of hazardous materials stored in transit in their communities to aid in emergency response planning and to ensure that, once again, the local emergency responders have the proper training and equipment to respond to incidents involving dangerous materials.

Winston Churchill, in his first statement as Prime Minister to the House of Commons, said "without victory there is no survival," including, as he noted, "victory in spite of all terror."

The PROTECTS Act is a necessary step to ensuring that end.

A detailed summary of the bill's provisions is attached.

THE PROTECTING RAILROAD OPERATORS, TRAVELERS, EMPLOYEES, AND COMMUNITIES WITH TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 2004—THE PROTECTS ACT

On March 11, 2004, a coordinated terrorist attack against the commuter train system of Madrid, Spain, killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,800 others, making it the deadliest terrorist attack against European civilians since 1988. The attacks consisted of a series of ten explosions that occurred onboard four commuter trains.

Bombings on trains are nothing new for terrorists. Our Nation's rail transportation network has also been targeted. Lyman Faxis, a truck driver from Ohio who pleaded guilty last May to providing material support to al-Qaeda, told investigators that the organization wanted to derail a train near Washington, DC. Other intelligence sources report that al-Qaeda operatives have targeted the Washington rail corridor and that some had discussed exploding a train near storage tanks containing hazardous chemicals. Then, last Friday, a Seattle man who was aboard a cross-country Amtrak train was charged with telephoning bomb threats against the train as it passed through Wisconsin on Tuesday.

The Federal Government is spending \$4.4 billion this year on aviation security, and spending only \$65 million on rail security, even though five times as many people take trains as planes every day. While the freight railroads have adopted some security measures and Amtrak has added police and dog units and removed large fixtures from their platforms, such as trashcans and vending machines, the railroads can't do the job themselves.

The PROTECTS Act of 2004 ensures that the Federal Government will take the necessary steps to address certain security risks on our rail transportation network, while protecting the safety and security of travelers, employees, and communities. The bill, among other things, authorizes \$500 million to be appropriated for freight and passenger rail security improvements, a total of \$597 million for Amtrak's fire and life-safety improvements, \$65 million for system-wide Amtrak security upgrades, and a total of \$100 million for rail research and development.

Vulnerability Assessment. Requires the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to complete a vulnerability assessment of freight and passenger rail transportation, develop recommendations for improving rail security, and finalize a plan for the Federal Government to provide increased security support during high or severe threat levels of alert. The bill includes a reporting requirement to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The bill authorizes \$5 million in fiscal year 2005 for this initiative.

Memorandum of Agreement. Requires the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Homeland Security to execute a memorandum of agreement governing the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security in addressing rail security.

Study of Foreign Rail Transport Security Programs. Requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study of rail passenger transportation security programs in Japan, the European Union, and other foreign countries. The results of the study must be submitted to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, along with the Comptroller General's assessment of whether the United States can implement the same or similar security measures as those which are determined effective under this study.

Rail Police Officers. Allows rail police officers who are employed by a particular rail carrier to enforce the laws of a jurisdiction in which any rail carrier owns property.

Review of Rail Regulations. Requires the Department of Transportation, to review existing rail regulations for the purpose of identifying areas in which those regulations need to be revised to improve rail security. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Act, the Inspector General must send a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, including recommendations for changes to the regulations reviewed and any legislative changes required to improve railroad security.

Freight and Passenger Rail Security Improvement Program. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to State and local governments, railroad carriers, non-profit employee organizations representing rail workers or emergency responders, owners and lessors of rail cars used for transporting hazardous materials, shippers of hazardous materials by rail, universities, colleges, and research centers for full or partial reimbursement of costs incurred for certain activities to prevent or respond to acts of terrorism, sabotage, or other intercity passenger rail and freight rail security threats. The bill authorizes \$500 million in fiscal year 2005 for this program.

Fire and Life-Safety Improvements. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to Amtrak for fire and life-safety improvements to tunnels on the North-

east Corridor in New York, NY, Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC. A total of \$597 million is authorized for this program.

Rail Security Research and Development. Allows the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to establish a research and development program to improve freight and intercity passenger rail security. The bill authorizes \$50 million in each of fiscal years 2005 and 2006 for this program.

Rail Worker Security Training Program. Requires the Secretary of Transportation to develop guidance for a security training program to prepare rail workers for potential threat conditions. Railroad carriers would be required to develop the program in accordance with the guidance and submit it to the Secretary for approval. Once the program is approved, the railroad carriers would have 180 days to complete the training.

Whistleblower Protections. Strengthens whistleblower protections to ensure that no employee or other person may be harassed, prosecuted, held liable, or discriminated against in any way for commencing, testifying, assisting, or participating in a proceeding or any other action to enhance rail security, or for refusing to violate or assist in violating any law, rule, or regulation, related to rail security. The bill would also allow claimants to bring an action in the appropriate district court if the Secretary of Labor has not issued a final decision within 180 days of the filing of a complaint, and there is no showing that the delay is due to the bad faith of the claimant.

Systemwide Amtrak Security Upgrades. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to Amtrak to secure tunnels, Amtrak trains, and Amtrak stations; to obtain a watch list identification system; to obtain train tracking and interoperable communications systems; to hire additional police and security officers, including canine units; and to expand emergency preparedness efforts. The bill authorizes \$65 million in fiscal year 2005 for this program.

Public Awareness. Requires the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to develop a national plan to increase awareness of measures that the general public, passengers, and employees can take to increase rail security.

Passenger, Baggage, and Cargo Screening. Requires the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Border and Transportation Security to analyze the cost and feasibility of requiring security screening of passengers, baggage, and cargo on passenger trains. The bill also requires the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a pilot program of random security screening of passengers and baggage at passenger rail stations served by Amtrak. The bill authorizes \$5 million for fiscal year 2005 for this program.

Emergency Responder Training Standards. Ensures that persons responding to emergencies that involve the removal and transportation of hazardous materials and high hazard materials are properly trained to protect nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of hazmat accidents.

Information for First Responders. Allows rail tank cars containing hazardous materials and high hazard materials to be transported or stored on rail tracks as long as information identifying the tank car, the hazardous materials within the tank car, and response guidance are immediately available to local emergency responders. Such information shall be provided through the Operation Respond Institute's technology or similar technology.

Definitions. Defines 'high hazard' materials as poison inhalation hazard materials,

Class 2.3 gases, Class 6.1 materials, anhydrous ammonia, and Class 7 radioactive materials.

HONORING THE COUNTRY OF JAMAICA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 42ND INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the country of Jamaica and to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of its Independence.

The history and traditions of the Jamaican people are knitted tightly within America's cultural fabric. Jamaica's influence is particularly apparent in Black and Brown communities throughout the United States, where the sounds, smells, tastes, and mores of Jamaica have found a second home. From Brooklyn to Baltimore to the Bay Area, Jamaicans and Jamaican-Americans have made their mark as successful, knowledgeable, and hard-working ambassadors of both a vibrant culture and an impassioned commitment to social change.

The Jamaican spirit is vibrantly shown by the two men who perhaps did the most to set the country on a path towards independence. Following the 1938 labor unrest, William Alexander Bustamante, founder of the Jamaican Trade Workers and Tradesmen Union JTWTU 3 years earlier, captured the hearts and minds of workers made furious by British indifference and oppression. Bustamante emerged from the strikes as the leading spokesperson for working class interests in Jamaica. By leveraging the power of the JTWTU to create the Bustamante Industrial Trade Unions, Bustamante formally inaugurated Jamaica's worker's movement, which was the primary piston in the engine of Jamaica's independence campaign.

While Bustamante organized the masses in the streets, Norman W. Manley, an Oxford-trained lawyer, Rhodes scholar, and humanist intellectual, laid the groundwork for the theory behind the independence movement's action. On September 18, 1938 Manley inaugurated the People's National Party PNP, which was guided by the principles of equality of opportunity and the need for a welfare state. Manley established a broad network in both urban areas and rural parishes, and built support for progressive public policy across wide swaths of Jamaican society.

Although Bustamante eventually founded the Jamaican Labor Party, a political rival of the PNP, the two men, both visionary nationalists and advocates of fundamental social change, worked towards the singular goal of freedom for Jamaica's people. Their efforts as alternating Premiers led to constitutional amendments which strengthened Jamaican self-governance and gradually eroded British control of the island. This period, known as "constitutional decolonization," ushered in the great day of Jamaica's independence, August 6, 1962.

But Jamaica's independence is not just marked by a date. It is carried instead in the bosom of emissaries of peace and justice, Jamaicans who have sown seeds of their particularly fiery brand of liberty across the world.

Thus we cannot tell the tale of American liberation movements without mentioning with highest regard the great Jamaican-American leader Marcus Garvey, founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and champion of oppressed people of African descent across the globe.

And the very marrow of the anti-war, Black Power, and anti-colonialist movements of the late 1960s, 70s, and 80s was the inspirational and haunting melodies of Bob Marley, perhaps the most important figure in 20th century music. Marley elevated music beyond the level of an art form and made it instead an earthly embodiment of spiritual truths, melodious wisdom which transcended daily problems and cut to the heart of man's most pressing struggles. Even today, the music of Bob Marley articulates the groanings of people's movements throughout the world, unceasing in its cry for peace and freedom.

The list could go on: 'Granny Nanny,' the revolutionary maroon who fiercely and successfully battled the British throughout the 18th century; General Colin Powell, our national hero; Claude McKay, the great poet and inspiration for the Harlem Renaissance; Dudley Thompson, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Grace Jones, Harry Belafonte, and many, many others. These Jamaicans and Jamaican-Americans have had an enormous impact on American history and culture, cutting their own paths across the world and touching the lives of millions of Americans.

On this special occasion, I hold that Independence Day is not simply a 24-hour period in Jamaica; it is, instead, a way of life. And it is my hope that we in the United States, with our economic policies and diplomatic relations, encourage the spirit of self-determination and independence in Jamaica, assisting Jamaica's people as they work for the economic and social freedom that they so sorely deserve.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICA SAVING FOR PERSONAL INVESTMENT, RETIREMENT AND EDUCATION ("ASPIRE") ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues Congressmen FORD, PETRI, and ENGLISH in introducing the ASPIRE Act, which presents new hope for extending the American dream.

The ASPIRE Act—or America Saving for Personal Investment, Retirement, and Education—renews our commitment to ensuring opportunity for every child. This Act is in keeping with our government's long-standing tradition of expanding opportunities for each generation of citizens. It upholds the tradition of the Homestead Act, which in the nineteenth century sought to create opportunity through land ownership. It is in the same spirit that, in the twentieth century, we created universal public education—and then opened up access to higher education through the GI Bill and Pell grants.

Living up to our goal of ensuring opportunity requires a new strategy, one tailored to the information age. In the twenty-first century, opportunity is tied to ownership. And yet we see

today glaring disparities in the distribution of assets. A huge gulf exists between those who have ready access to asset-building tools, and those who do not.

If we are to make good on our promise to America's youth, we need an honest new effort to broaden ownership of assets. We need to make savings incentives universal, rather than reserving them exclusively for the wealthy and middle class. The tax deductions we currently use to incentivize savings disproportionately benefit those in the highest tax brackets, not those who need the most help.

By creating universal "KIDS accounts," the ASPIRE Act will give every child born in this country a real stake in the future. Under the program, every child's account will be credited with an automatic \$500 seed contribution at birth, supplemented by up to an additional \$500 for children living below the median income.

These accounts will be invested in a system like the Thrift Savings Plan for federal employees, giving kids and their parents a range of indexed investment options, from government bonds to international stocks. The accounts will be able to receive up to \$1,000 each year in private voluntary contributions. Children in lower income families will receive dollar-for-dollar government matches for annual contributions of up to \$500. As in Roth IRAs, the growth of account balances will be tax-free.

When children turn 18, thanks to compound interest, they will have a real nest egg that they can use for higher education costs, save for future home-ownership, or save for retirement. They can then chose to maintain their accounts within the ASPIRE Fund, or roll them over to private financial institutions.

Some will criticize universal savings accounts as too "big government" or too expensive. But let me tell you, we subsidize asset-building in a very big way already—70 billion dollars each year for the homeowner's mortgage interest deduction and 150 billion for retirement accounts like IRAs, just to name two. Contrast this with the seven billion dollars per year it would take to bring savings to every American. That's less than 3 percent of what we currently spend subsidizing savings and investment for middle class and wealthy Americans.

Universal KIDS accounts will go a long way toward the creation of a true stakeholder society. They will enable millions of young Americans to gain access to higher education. They will put homeownership—the cornerstone of Americans' financial stability—within reach of millions more families. And they will put every young American on track for developing retirement savings.

Consider that a child receiving the full \$1,000 seed contribution, contributing as little as \$250 per year to an account earning 7 percent, would hold an account worth \$21,480 by her 18th birthday. By the time this individual reaches age 65, the account balance would grow to over half a million dollars.

We know from experience that incentives like matching contributions can help lower-income families save. Evidence provided by individual development accounts as well as 401(k) plans clearly points to the success of these strategies. In addition, international models demonstrate the feasibility of a universal accounts program. This is the so-called baby bonds idea that Tony Blair has instituted in Great Britain, and if they can do it there, we can do it here in the United States.

Think about the way that universal accounts would transform the outlook of young Americans. A new generation, assured savings accounts at birth, would cultivate a savings habit from a young age. These kids would grow up knowing that they own something, getting quarterly statements. KIDS Accounts would encourage a new culture of increased financial literacy, which is critical for enhancing one's prospects in a society where ownership equates with opportunity. Your lot in life shouldn't depend on your parents' paycheck. KIDS accounts would give every child in the United States a real stake in the future, and a reason to dream.

I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that this bill is both bipartisan and bicameral, with Senators SANTORUM and CORZINE introducing a companion in the other body. I hope that the breadth of our initial supporters will foreshadow a wider embrace of this legislation that truly transcends party lines.

I want to thank my colleagues from both parties and both chambers for the hard work that has gone into thinking through details of this effort. And special thanks are due Ray Boshara and Reid Cramer at the New America Foundation, who have provided much of the intellectual foundation underlying this important step forward.

Mr. Speaker, too often our policy innovation falls victim to our partisan acrimony. If we are to preserve the universal opportunity that has been the hallmark of America for two centuries, we need to get beyond stale ideas and ideological blinders and embrace new ideas for a new age. I'm proud to join my friends today in introducing the ASPIRE Act and look forward to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reinvigorate the American dream.

RECOGNIZING DON MILLER AS A HERO OF CHEMISTRY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Don Miller of Downingtown, PA, as one of the American Chemistry Society's 2004 Heroes of Chemistry.

The Heroes of Chemistry Award was created in 1996 to recognize the innovation and hard work of scientists whose chemical work has produced successful commercial products.

Along with four of his colleagues at Wyeth, Don is being recognized by the ACS for his pioneering work in developing the world's first antibody-targeted chemotherapeutic agent. Don headed this team of scientists for 7 years, seeing the research all the way through to product approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Don's love of science led him first to the University of Pittsburgh and then on to Purdue University for his PhD. His career as a scientist has taken him across the United States and around the world, but the driving force in his life remains in Downingtown with his loving wife, Eva, and his daughters, Skye and Rhiannon.

The ingenuity, perseverance and dedication of Don Miller, and all of his colleagues in the

various fields of chemical research, has had a tremendously positive impact on the quality of our health and lives and we all owe Don and his dedicated colleagues our utmost gratitude and appreciation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that on rollcall 397 I voted incorrectly and would like the RECORD to reflect that I had intended to vote "yea" on that rollcall vote.

INTRODUCTION OF OCEANS 21

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today signals the beginning of a new era in the protection and management of this Nation's largest public trust resource: our oceans. Along with the other bi-partisan co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, JIM GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania, TOM ALLEN of Maine, and CURT WELDON of Pennsylvania, I introduced OCEANS 21, a comprehensive oceans policy bill that answers the calls of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

Our bill offers a comprehensive legislative solution to all of the crises documented in both oceans reports by establishing a strong national oceans policy that protects, maintains, and restores the health of marine ecosystems. This national policy will secure, for present and future generations, the full range of benefits of healthy marine ecosystems—a responsibility that I take quite seriously in my job of representing California's central coast, home to the Nation's largest national marine sanctuary.

The importance of this policy cannot be overstated, as we all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the person who visits the ocean once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, as well as opportunities for scientific inquiry, including medical discovery, and personal reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, over a trillion dollars is added to our economy each year by ocean and coastal economies. This is a huge economic contribution to our gross domestic product, a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming. Our bill explicitly protects these returns.

Mr. Speaker, to implement the national oceans policy set forth in OCEANS 21, we provide four national standards which covered actions, defined as those carried out by the Federal Government or paid for in part by Federal funds, must be consistent with. These standards include a precautionary approach and a reversal of the burden of proof. These cornerstones of OCEANS 21 are founded on

the opinions of many marine scientists who have seen the health of marine ecosystems degrade over the past years. In fact, many scientists have been encouraging a restructuring of our ocean policy to reflect a precautionary approach and a reversal of the burden of proof for many years. For example, in a 1998 Science article, Paul Dayton, a preeminent marine scientist, asserted, "If society's environmental needs are to be protected so that future generations can also enjoy, learn, and profit from marine ecosystems, this legal burden of proof must be applied to our marine resources so that those hoping to exploit them must demonstrate no ecologically significant long-term changes." Today, I am proud to report back to the scientists, those who know our oceans better than most, that members of Congress have heard their calls and have responded.

As asserted in both the Pew and U.S. Commission Reports, our government needs a way to promote greater coordination among federal agencies whose actions may affect the oceans. Our bill responds to this issue by establishing a National Oceans Council comprised of secretaries of departments and heads of independent agencies. OCEANS 21 recommends that this Council be chaired by a National Oceans Advisor to the President. We recognized early on in our House Oceans Caucus leadership discussions that the best way to improve federal stewardship of our ocean resources was to offer a mechanism for bringing federal agencies together and to have an advisor to the President who can articulate the importance of the oceans. The National Oceans Council and the National Oceans Advisor are the solutions we present.

One of the biggest advances in our understanding of the oceans to occur since our last national review of ocean policy over 30 years ago is that the natural world functions as ecosystems, with each species intricately connected to the other parts that make up the whole. Both the Pew and the U.S. Commission Reports clearly state that we must adopt a new policy framework that is based on the concept of "the whole," an ecosystem-based approach, and move away from our archaic approach based on political boundaries. This new ecosystem-based management approach will not be as easy as our previous approaches, but we must dedicate ourselves to making it a reality.

We have responded to the call for ecosystem-based management by including within OCEANS 21 a provision for Regional Ocean Councils, whose primary responsibility is to do ecosystem planning. We do comprehensive land use planning, so why not do comprehensive ocean planning? With a national ocean policy explicitly written to maintain healthy ocean ecosystems and with Regional Ocean Councils charged with developing and implementing regional ocean ecosystem plans, we can turn back the tide of irresponsible ocean management.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also provides an "Organic Act" for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—an agency whose existence today is only reflected in an Executive Order. Our bill establishes NOAA in statute. However, unlike some of the other proposals currently being considered, we do not simply codify the status quo. This is because we recognize the status quo has failed and, if long-term ecological sustainability is

one of our goals, then we can no longer consider our ocean resources in a piecemeal fashion. OCEANS 21, therefore, restructures NOAA to better reflect the importance of ecosystem approaches.

Setting the stage for a long-term solution to the best possible management of our ocean resources, we also call for the President to submit recommendations for reorganizing Federal departments to establish a Department of Natural Resources. This way, all of our valuable natural resources can be managed together—reflecting our full acknowledgement of the connections between all parts of the natural world, from the oceans to the land to the air.

In addition to addressing the problems of oceans governance, OCEANS 21 also addresses the need for increased investments in marine science research, including ocean exploration, and marine education.

Mr. Speaker, to address the Pew and U.S. Commission recommendations surrounding the ocean science, our bill calls for a national strategy on ocean and coastal science and authorizes funding for marine ecosystems research. OCEANS 21 also creates a National Oceans Council Subcommittee to focus Federal investments on scientific areas especially requiring attention.

One of the most exciting aspects of OCEANS 21 is that it will help to instill a new marine stewardship ethic in all people—from first-graders learning how to read to graduate students investigating challenging scientific processes. The bill does this in many ways: by explicitly describing education as one of NOAA's missions; by creating an interagency ocean science and coastal education program; by establishing an ocean science and technology scholarship program; and by creating a mass media campaign on how we are all dependent on healthy and productive oceans.

Mr. Speaker, OCEANS 21 is a comprehensive response to two comprehensive ocean reports that both deliver the same sad message: our oceans are in peril and we must act now. It is up to each of us to not let this unprecedented, once-in-a-generation opportunity pass us by. With the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and The Pew Oceans Commission Reports both calling for immediate action to protect the oceans, this Congress has a responsibility to the American public to pass legislation that ensures future generations have the opportunity to benefit from healthy oceans. Since coming to Congress in 1993, I have worked hard to raise awareness of the importance of our oceans and today, my dedication to protecting this Country's largest public trust resource is reflected in the introduction of OCEANS 21. I have worked with the bi-partisan co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus to introduce a bill that we all support and this bi-partisan effort should be celebrated.

The Bush Administration has a prime opportunity to take the steps necessary to instill a new ocean ethic in our government. Action by this Administration could very well save our oceans. The time for leadership is now. I am dedicated to providing it in Congress, and I hope the President will provide it in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to dedicate themselves to shaping a better future for our oceans by supporting the House Oceans Caucus Leadership's ocean policy bill. Our bill will not only bring U.S. ocean policy

into the 21st century, it will set the tone for a future in which our oceans remain vital components of our economy, our communities, and our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quote from the U.S. Commission Report that encapsulates my thoughts on the urgency of considering OCEANS 21 this session:

"The responsibility of our generation is to reclaim and renew the oceans for ourselves, for our children, and—if we do the job right—for those whose footprints will mark the sands of beaches from Maine to Hawaii long after ours have washed away."

HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of Hendrick Motorsports.

Hendrick Motorsports was started by my good friend Rick Hendrick in 1984 for the purpose of entering a single car into a single stock car race. Over the next twenty years, Hendrick Motorsports grew into the racing empire it is today, supporting four entries in NASCAR's Nextel Cup Series and one entry in the Busch Series every week. Since its inception, Hendrick Motorsports teams have secured five NASCAR Winston Cup now Nextel Cup Championships, three NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series titles, and one NASCAR Busch Series crown, totaling more than 100 victories in twenty years of racing.

All Hendrick race cars are completely constructed at a 62-acre complex in my home of Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Hendrick Motorsports provides employment to more than 400 Cabarrus County residents. They work not only in the production of racing cars and engines at the main complex but also in the many other daily operation activities of Hendrick Motorsports, such as managing HendrickMotorsports.com, maintaining the 15,000 square-foot Hendrick museum, marketing, public relations, sponsor services, licensing, and merchandising.

The success of Hendrick Motorsports on the race track has led to the opening of the Hendrick Automotive Group, which consists of nearly 60 car dealerships across the country. These dealerships contribute both to their local communities, through donations to local charities, and to the Nation as a whole by participating in The Hendrick Marrow Program.

Created in 1997, the Hendrick Marrow Program seeks to recruit donors to the National Marrow Donor Program and provides financial assistance to the patients who receive these life-saving transplants. As a direct result of the Hendrick Marrow Program's efforts, more than 60,000 potential volunteer donors have joined the National Marrow Donor Program Registry and more than \$500,000 have been used to assist patients with transplant-related costs, such as lodging and post-transplant prescriptions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to thank Hendrick Motorsports for making Cabarrus County "The Center of American Motorsports" and to congratulate them for twenty years of achievement both on and off the track.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GATEWAY TO DEMOCRACY ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Gateway to Democracy Act, a bill designed to increase young voter registration and participation. As we enter another presidential election season we are once again reminded that in order for our democracy to function properly, people need to exercise their right to vote. Unfortunately, young people consistently fail to turn out to the polls on voting day. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in the 2000 general election only 45.4 percent of 18 to 24 year olds were registered to vote and only 32.3 percent voted. The statistics for the 1998 general election were even more dismal, as 39.2 percent of such individuals were registered and a mere 16.6 percent actually went to the polls.

Studies have shown that people establish their voting behavior early in life. People who start voting between the ages of 18-24 are more likely to consistently participate in the election process for the rest of their lives. Thus it is in the best interest of the country to make it as easy as possible for the youth of our nation to go to the polls for the first time.

Young adults often fail to turn out on their first Election Day simply because, for the first time, they realize they have not registered to vote. Most states require registration prior to the election itself, so that it is too late to establish voter eligibility on Election Day. The Gateway to Democracy Act seeks to increase the number of young people who are eligible to vote as soon as they reach voting age.

In 1993, we passed The National Voter Registration Act so that people could register to vote when they applied for their motor vehicle driver's licenses. This law has increased voter registration and according to studies appears to increase youth voting. However, many states allow individuals to get their licenses years before they meet the age requirement for registration, but few states allow registration at that time if the person is not eighteen years old. Since 53.7 percent of seventeen year olds already had their motor vehicle licenses in 2002, we missed a valuable opportunity to register more than half of the people in that age group.

The Gateway to Democracy is a very simple idea. If you're 18 or older and you apply for a driver's license, you can also register to vote. But in most states, if you are under 18, you do not have the same opportunity to register to vote at the same time that you apply for a drivers license. Thus, a 16 or 17 year old typically must make a second trip to register after that person reaches the eligible age to vote. Often these young people don't bother to make this second trip until it is too late for them to participate in the first election for which they are eligible. This bill will allow people who are too young to vote to fill out all the paperwork necessary to register to vote when they get their drivers license. However, they won't be eligible to go to the polls until they reach the legal minimum voting age.

Some states already have successful pre-registration programs. For example, Connecticut, Florida and Maine allow people to

pre-register to vote at age 17, Georgia, Missouri, and Iowa allow people to pre-register at age 17 and a half and Hawaii allows people to preregister at age 16. These programs prove that pre-registration programs are simple and effective.

The Gateway to Democracy is a common-sense solution to the problem of getting young people registered in time for their first election. It allows young people to take care of the paperwork ahead of time so that they don't have anything standing in their way on Election Day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESRD MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Modernization Act, which is designed to improve the quality of care and quality of life for the more than 3,000,000 Americans living with ESRD.

Patients with irreversible kidney failure, also known as ESRD, will die unless they receive a kidney transplant or undergo dialysis. Sadly, transplantation is limited due to the shortage of donor organs, so the vast majority of those with ESRD must undergo dialysis, three times a week, in dialysis centers or their homes.

Since Congress first agreed to provide Medicare benefits to patients with kidney disease, the number of Americans in need of dialysis treatments has increased exponentially. Today, the most common cause of kidney failure is diabetes. As rates of obesity and Type II diabetes increase, we face an even greater number of Americans at risk for kidney failure.

Because of Medicare, these patients are able to live longer and healthier lives. As important as the ESRD program is, it has not kept pace with the rest of Medicare. Last year we worked to modernize the Medicare program, yet we did not address some of the most pressing issues within the ESRD Program. The comprehensive bill that we introduce today seeks to resolve those problems.

The ESRD Modernization Act would establish educational programs to improve patient care and quality of life. Under this Act, patients with chronic kidney disease (the precursor to ESRD) would have access to new educational programs to learn more the factors that lead to kidney failure and how to prevent them. ESRD patients would have the opportunity to develop skills to help them manage their disease more effectively. The bill also seeks to help those patients able to continue working while receiving dialysis do so by improving the home dialysis benefit.

Additionally, the ESRD Modernization Act would ensure the financial stability of the Medicare ESRD program by providing a mechanism for annual updates to the composite rate. Currently, the ESRD Program is the only Medicare Prospective Payment System program that does not have a mechanism to update its payment rates. This Act will provide such a mechanism, consistent with MedPAC's recommendation in its 2000 Report to Congress.

It is time we fix this life-saving program. I urge my colleagues to support this important

piece of legislation so that the Medicare ESRD Program can meet the challenges it faces in the 21st Century.

THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001 America watched in horror as terrorists attacked our country. We felt outrage and sadness but the worst feeling that day was a sense of helplessness. We wanted to know how the terrorists were able to invade our country and commit these terrible acts of violence and what we could do to prevent this from happening again.

Today's release of the 9/11 Commission Report will help focus our efforts in finding out what went wrong and what steps we must take to prevent another attack. The findings by the bipartisan 9/11 Commissioners give us an opportunity to analyze the steps that we have taken in the last two and one half years to make this country safer.

The Commission found that lack of intelligence information sharing between the CIA, FBI and other government agencies was the greatest weakness leading to the 9/11 attacks. They found that even when information was shared there still was an inability to connect the dots.

As Ranking Member on the Intelligence and Counterterrorism Subcommittee of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, I have worked with my Subcommittee chairman, Jim Gibbons, to make sure that the intelligence agencies are gathering and sharing critical information. We have also held hearings concerning information sharing with our first responders and state and local officials. These brave men and women who serve on the front line must be kept in the loop and be provided with the tools they need to communicate with each other as they work to protect the citizens of this great country. We still have much to accomplish, but I believe that the 9/11 Commission Report will significantly assist with our work on these critical issues.

The Commission recommends that Congress give the executive branch more guidance on fighting terrorism and that the Congressional Intelligence Committees take a more active oversight role. They also recommend the establishment of a National Counterterrorism Center, and consolidating budgetary and operational oversight of all fifteen intelligence agencies and the naming of a new National Intelligence Director to help unify the intelligence community. I support all of these recommendations and thank the 9/11 Commissioners and their staff for their dedication to winning the war on terrorism.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY ON
TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, the world marked the 30th anniversary

of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. And so began three decades of Turkey's illegal military occupation of Cyprus. Even as we speak, Turkey maintains 30,000 heavily armed troops in the occupied portions of Cyprus.

For 30 years, Cyprus has been divided by a green line—a 113 mile barbed wire barrier that runs across the width of the island.

For 30 years, Greek Cypriots have experienced 30 years of ethnic cleansing, forcible evictions, and missing persons. Cyprus has endured 30 years of the flouting of its territorial integrity. This includes the occupation authority's attempt to create an independent "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

The international community has witnessed 30 years of the flagrant violation of U.N. General Assembly resolutions and Security Council decisions calling for immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cyprus, the return of refugees, and respect for the island's sovereignty.

Thirty years is a long time. The occupation of Cyprus has been going on too long. If left to their own wisdom and devices, with firm international support, Greek and Turkish Cypriots could find ways to live in peace and harmony.

The international community can and must play an indispensable role in settling the Cyprus dispute. But, to do this, it must draw the proper conclusions from results of the vote this past April on the reunification plan put forward by the United Nations.

Seventy six percent of the Greek Cypriot electorate opposed the "Annan Plan" because of concerns about security, property restitution, and the structure of the proposed central government, while 65 percent of Turkish Cypriot voters supported it. It is clear from this experience that a workable solution must take the interests and concerns of both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities fully into account.

It is instructive that the split vote has not led to greater tension between the two communities or between Greece and Turkey. During most of the 433 year history of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriots have coexisted peacefully.

With the notable exception of the period that immediately followed Turkish occupation of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriot relations have largely been free of inter-communal violence. The hotly debated referendum itself took place overwhelmingly with an absence of conflict. This shows that despite the differences between them, Greek and Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly share a desire for peace.

The leadership of the Republic of Cyprus seeks a bizonal, bicommunal federation under a plan that promotes the genuine reunification of Cypriots and Cypriot society, while enabling each community to retain its own identity and culture.

Cyprus's admission to the European Union on May 1st of this year may have created a new opportunity for resolving the division and occupation with an inclusive democratic system in which human rights are fully respected and the fundamental freedoms on which the European Union is founded, are guaranteed.

Taking all of this into account, the U.N. needs to go back to the drawing board. The United States needs to remain an honest broker. It must not attempt to impose a solution that the overwhelming majority of Greek-

Cypriots reject. To do so will make an ultimate solution and final reunification difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

America must at all times remember that a united, peaceful, and prosperous Cyprus is in our national interest and the interest of world peace. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Cyprus was one of the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States. Cyprus has also been a strong ally in the war against terrorism. We must continue to support our friends, who like us, only seek to live in peace.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LAWRENCE
A. MILLBEN RECEIVES THE
CHAMPION OF EXCELLENCE
AWARD

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to acknowledge one of my constituents, Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence A. Millben, Support Group Commander of the 127th Wing of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan. This Saturday, July 24, 2004, he will be recognized by the North American Black Historical Museum with a Champion of Excellence Award for his many achievements, particularly within the realm of aviation. Like the North American Black Historical Museum, I am impressed by his accomplishments in the United States and Canada. I am especially proud of Lieutenant Colonel Millben because of the numerous contributions and firsts realized in my District, the 14th Congressional District of Michigan, because of him.

Lieutenant Colonel Millben, born in Detroit, Michigan and educated in the Detroit Public School System, has achieved many firsts and has set an exceptional example. He was the first African American to graduate from Aero Mechanics High School, one of four schools in the country that specializes in aircraft maintenance. After high school, he became the first African American to enlist in the Michigan Air National Guard. In 1957, he continued his education and attended the basic and the advanced technician level Aircraft Electrical Schools, completing both simultaneously. This was the first time in the history of the Air Force School that anyone completed both schools simultaneously.

After attending the Air Force School, he went on to have a rewarding career in the private sector, as well as in the military. He was employed by the Burroughs Corporation from 1959 through 1975 and holds several United States Patents. He has also advised the Detroit Public School System on Aircraft Avionics and Aerospace subjects as a consultant.

Military highlights for the Lieutenant Colonel include serving as a full time Avionics Officer from 1975 until 1983, acting as the 191st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander in 1983, becoming the first African American Line Officer promoted to the grade of Lieutenant Colonel Millben in 1986, and assuming the position of Deputy Commander for Maintenance in 1988. From 1987–1988, he also served as the President of the 12,000 members National Guard Association of Michigan, the first African American Air Guardsman to do so. Finally, in his current capacity of

Support Group Commander of the 127th Wing of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan, he accomplished another first, as he was the first African American to assume this role as well.

Awards and decorations received by Lieutenant Colonel Millben include the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Award, and the Major General John A. Johnston Award for Excellence. He also received the State of Michigan Award for Continued Support of Vocational Education in 1985 and the Spirit of Detroit Award in 1987. He completed Air Command and Staff College in 1980 and Air War College in 1993. He is married to the former Jean Wilburn and is the father of Sheryl, Patricia Millben-Craft, and Lawrence, Jr.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES PRESTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in offering our congratulations and very best wishes to one of the First Ladies of American music. Frances W. Preston will soon retire as president and Chief Executive Officer of Broadcast Music Inc., (BMI).

The business acumen of Frances Preston is exceeded only by her charisma and charm, and by the respect, affection and admiration her colleagues and peers have for her. She has been lauded for her empathy and for the gracious manner in which she treats every person, from the hottest star to the humblest worker. She is an exceptional executive, leader, role model, and friend.

With Frances at its head, BMI has grown to represent over 300,000 American and foreign songwriters, composers, and music publishers in licensing music and collecting and distributing royalties from play on radio and in television, films, ads and other media. Its artists represent all types of music and its catalog contains 4.5 million works. During her 18 years as president, its revenue has grown more than three times to more than \$625 million.

BMI has become an internationally respected leader and a unique success story as the entertainment industry has been transformed by digital technology and globalization. Sensitive to the changing world of music, Frances has focused on domestic licensing, foreign performing rights, legislation for fair compensation for writers and publishers, and copyright protection.

Frances joined BMI in 1958 after working in music and broadcasting in Nashville. She opened BMI's regional office there, and led her company to preeminence in the South, signing writers and publishers with roots in both country and other types of music.

In 1964, the year the Nashville BMI Building opened on Music Row, Frances became a vice president of BMI—reportedly, the first woman corporate executive in Tennessee.

She has often been called a trailblazer in the music business but Frances was also a trailblazer among women. She was the first woman Rotarian in the State of Tennessee.

She was the first woman to work with the National Chamber of Commerce. She was one of the first four women—and the first businesswoman—to be invited to join the Friars Club in New York and the first woman to serve on their board of governors.

Frances moved to BMI's New York office in 1985. She was appointed Senior Vice President, Performing Rights in 1985 and President and CEO in 1986. She is a member of BMI's Board of Directors.

In 1992, in recognition of the important role she played in building Nashville's music industry, she received the highest accolade in Country music: induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. In 2004, she was also inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. She is a lifetime member of the board of directors of the Country Music Association—one of only five individuals to be so honored—and has served as president and chairperson of the board. She is also a lifetime board member of the Gospel Music Association, where she served as chairperson and president, as well as a lifetime member of the Nashville Songwriters Association International.

Frances is vice president of the National Music Council and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Academy of Popular Music/Songwriters Hall of Fame, a board member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and a director and member of the executive committee of the Broadcasters' Foundation.

Frances' many interests and her expertise extend far beyond the music industry. A distinguished member of business and political circles, she served on President Jimmy Carter's Panama Canal Study Committee, the commission for the White House Record Library, and Vice President Albert Gore's National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council.

She has given selflessly of her time and resources to many of America's most worthy charities. She is President of the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research and the recipient of its 1992 Humanitarian Award. She is an activist and a philanthropist who became involved in the fight against cancer after the disease claimed her close friend and ski instructor. The Frances Williams Preston Research Laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center is named in her honor, as is Vanderbilt's Frances Williams Preston Building, the focal point for the VICC's research.

Included among other awards far too numerous to list, Preston has received the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) Achievement Award, presented to only five women each year, honoring her as one of "America's outstanding women in business and labor." She has been honored with the Broadcasters' Foundation's Golden Mike Award, and the President's Award from the National Music Publishers' Association in recognition of her contributions to the music and music publishing industries.

Preston was singled out by *Esquire* magazine as "the most influential and powerful person in the country music business." *Ladies' Home Journal* listed her as one of the "50 Most Powerful Women In America" and *Entertainment Weekly* placed her second in its Top 10 listing of "The Powers of Country Music." Over the years, *Business Nashville*, *BAM*, *Radio Ink* and *Hits* have listed her as one of the most powerful people in the music industry. In 1997, she was one of only ten busi-

nesswomen featured in Rolling Stone's "Women in Rock" special issue.

Frances has been a partner and strong supporter to those of us in Congress who care about copyright protection. She has vigorously supported the fight against music piracy and vigorously guarded against any legislation that would reduce the rights and incomes of songwriters, composers and publishers.

I am honored to congratulate Frances on her retirement and ask my colleagues in the House to join me in wishing her many happy years ahead.

PALESTINIAN PARLIAMENT URGES
NEEDED REFORMS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Palestinian Parliament for their leadership in demanding reforms in the Palestinian Authority.

By a vote of 43–4, Palestinian lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling on Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei and calling for the formation of a new government that would have greater control over the security forces, the authority to introduce political changes and to combat pervasive corruption. Yesterday's vote marks the emergence of the Palestinian Parliament as a check to Mr. Arafat's political power.

If the Palestinian Authority is to gain legitimacy among its own people and in the world community, the Palestinians themselves must take responsibility for bringing about needed reforms and for establishing an effective security apparatus to combat terrorism and violence.

It is clear by yesterday's action that a new power base dedicated to reducing violence and chaos in the Gaza Strip is emerging, and the United States must encourage and support that effort. I look forward to a renewed commitment in bringing stability to this region.

I am hopeful that seeing the success of this resolution, Palestinian lawmakers will assert themselves in the future to serve the greater interests of the Palestinian people.

CONDEMNING ATTACK ON AMIA
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, IN
JULY 1994

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, a terrorist bomb destroyed the headquarters of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, known by its Spanish acronym, AMIA, killing 85 people and wounding 200. To this day, the attack on the AMIA remains the deadliest anti-Semitic incident since World War II.

I take this opportunity to condemn the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in

Buenos Aires, Argentina on July 18, 1994, and to honor the victims of this heinous act.

The AMIA attack, which showed the same cowardice as the September 11, 2001, attack, tragically illustrates the intention of Islamic terrorists to bring their jihad against Western values to our own hemisphere.

Substantial evidence attributes the attack on July 18, 1994, to the terrorist group Hizballah, based in Lebanon and sponsored by Iran. Evidence indicates that the tri-border region where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet was used to channel resources for the purpose of carrying out the AMIA attack by terrorists linked with Iran.

Regrettably, the scheming of international terrorist organizations such as Hizballah and al-Qaeda are not confined to the tri-border region. Much of the Western Hemisphere is ideal for international terrorist groups to establish bases due to the ill equipped and poorly trained security agencies across the region.

Terrorism is their technique, but hatred is their ideology. The fight against terrorism must remain a top priority. Nowhere is this more true than in America's backyard.

While the case has been officially under investigation for over 9 years, the responsible parties have not yet been apprehended.

Massive judicial and investigative irregularities, destruction of evidence, and cover-ups have already distorted the long-delayed trial.

The biggest blow to the trial came last year when Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who had spent nine years probing the bombing, was removed from the case. It was revealed he paid \$400,000 in State money to a witness in return for testimony needed to move the stalled case forward.

So now, the court is focusing on investigating the investigation rather than look into who was to blame.

Make no mistake about it, failure to duly punish the culprits of the AMIA attack serves to reward terrorists and help spread terrorism. Therefore, I strongly urge the Government of Argentina to fulfill its international obligations and its promise to the Argentine people by pursuing the local and international connections to this act of terrorism, wherever it may lead, and to properly punish all those who are involved.

Argentina owes it to itself, its people and the human family to conduct an intense, fearless and comprehensive investigation that will lead to the identification and prosecution of the principal criminals.

HONORING SHAFER VINEYARDS'
25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an extraordinary event in my district. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Shafer Vineyards, a family run winery that produces some of the world's highest rated wines from the heart of California's Napa Valley.

I have had the pleasure of knowing John and Barbara Shafer for a long time. Their history in the Napa Valley and the philanthropic contributions they have made in enhancing

thousands of lives of those who are less fortunate have truly been an inspiration to all who have met this remarkable family.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, if you do not know the Shafers, you should. John left a successful career in publishing in 1972 to pursue his dream of a second career in producing premium wine. He and his family moved to the Napa Valley and purchased a 210-acre estate in the Stags Leap District. The family began planting 50 acres of vineyards on the rocky hillside property. In 1978 their painstaking work paid off when John crushed their first harvest of cabernet sauvignon grapes marking the beginning of their winery.

Mr. Speaker, the rise of Shafer Vineyards is truly an American success story. In the 25 years since the Shafer family produced their first vintage consisting 1,000 cases of cabernet sauvignon, the winery has grown to produce 32,000 cases of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Sangiovese and Syrah per year. Today Shafer wines can be found throughout the entire United States and in markets throughout Europe and Asia. The Shafer's have also set the bar for sustainable agriculture in the Napa Valley and throughout the world. By the end of 2004, their winery will convert to 100 percent solar power.

While the Shafer family's business has grown beyond their dreams, the values that they began with remain as strong and visible in our community as ever. Twenty-five years later John still serves as chairman of the board of the winery and his son Doug has taken over the day-to-day activities serving as president.

Not only do Shafer Vineyards and the Shafer family have an illustrious history of winemaking and responsible land stewardship, but they also have a long history of public service. For as many years as I can remember, the Shafer family has been a leader in ensuring the success of the annual Napa Valley Wine Auction, which has raised over \$50 million for community non-profit organizations. John served as the chairman of the 1999 wine auction, that year the auction raised \$5.5 million breaking all previous records. Recently John led the effort to build the Napa Valley Vintners Community Health Center which houses four healthcare organizations and will care for thousands of area residents for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I think it is appropriate that we honor and congratulate the Shafer family for their success in the wine business and their countless contributions to the betterment of the Napa Valley. I wish the Shafer family and Shafer Vineyards well as they enjoy and prosper during their next 25 years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO SUSPEND THE DUTY ON CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL TOYS AND DEVICES

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to suspend the duty on electronic educational toys for children. This duty is, in fact, an educational tax on the consumer.

At a time when we as policymakers are focusing on ways to enhance education for our children, it is important to aggressively promote tools that are valuable in teaching fundamental skills. Penalizing the consumer for buying educational toys is contrary to the country's educational goals.

Currently, computers and toys enter the United States duty free. But electronic educational toys have a duty. This duty is inevitably passed on to the consumer. We do not want to create a situation where a consumer may be less inclined to buy an educational toy versus a regular toy, which has not had to absorb the cost of the duty.

The company leading the fight to eliminate the tax on electronic educational toys is a California company, LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc. LeapFrog is an innovative company and a leading developer of educational products, currently employing 1,000 people in my state.

I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort to end an unwise tax on education.

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the commitment of the Republic of Cyprus to democracy, human rights, free markets, and equal justice under law.

Regrettably, this July 20th marked the thirtieth anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish military forces. This illegal military occupation of more than one-third of Cyprus' territory is a violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.

To this day, Turkey maintains a force of 30,000 heavily armed troops in Cyprus. 1,500 Greek Cypriots and 4 Americans of Cypriot descent remain missing since 1974, when the Turkish military forces commenced a policy of ethnic cleansing, forcibly evicting 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes.

In 1983, displaying blatant disregard for international law and the sovereign independence of the Republic of Cyprus, Turkey encouraged the secession and declaration of independence of the occupied areas.

The "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" has been recognized by no nation except for Turkey, and the U.N. General Assembly has made numerous calls for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign military forces from Cyprus.

Cyprus' accession to the European Union in May of 2004 has given Cypriots new resolve to overcome the division of their nation and citizens. It will be a difficult path towards a united Cyprus that is founded on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. But it is a path paved with the hope of a determined people.

Currently, the Republic of Cyprus is seeking a bizonal and bicommunal federation, reunifying society and economy, while granting each community the right to retain its own identity and culture, without military occupation.

Although a reunification plan was set forth by the United Nations, in April of this year 76 percent of Greek Cypriot voters stood in opposition to the plan due to issues of vital concern, such as security, property restitution,

and dissatisfaction with the structure of the proposed central government.

Despite the rejection of the plan, 90 percent of the Greek Cypriot community turned out to vote on the UN plan, displaying a deep interest and concern in the future of the reunification of their nation and the changes this would bring.

We must learn from the message sent by those who could not support the proposed Plan. The lesson is Cyprus' reunification is too important an issue to rush into a Plan that does not address the serious concerns of all Cypriots.

H.R. 3874

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure to co-sponsor Representative BONO's bill, H.R. 3874, which will enable the Palm Springs area to benefit from the conveyance of 44 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to Father Joe's Villages for the creation of a homeless shelter, a training center, and affordable housing for this area of Riverside County.

I have had the privilege of knowing Father Joe Carroll for many years in San Diego, where he has worked tirelessly to develop an extensive program of services for the homeless of all ages through the St. Vincent De Paul Village.

Often identified by the community for its Kitchen, which serves 4,000 meals a day, the center goes way beyond providing the homeless with food to offering dental, vision, and other health services. It also provides high school equivalency and computer training.

Helping the homeless find jobs not only includes coaching in job hunting skills and providing interview attire but begins with coordinating on-site psychiatric services to address some of the underlying needs of village members through volunteer professionals from the University of California San Diego.

The Center also provides for the 24-hour care of some 200 orphaned children, which includes meeting not only their food, clothing, housing, and health needs but also houses their public schooling.

The village offers courses in parenting, anger management, and counseling for unmarried couples with children as well as prenatal care. In sum, it invests in offering needy people full-life services both intensively and for an extended time to help them turn their lives around.

I know that with the decades of Father Joe Carroll's successful experience in San Diego, this opportunity to create a new service base in Palm Springs will be beneficial for the community.

TAXES AND THE ECONOMY, CUT
ONE, GROW THE OTHER

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, high tax rates and complex tax codes stifle job growth. A fair

and simple tax code should only provide enough revenue for the federal government to carry out its necessary tasks. It should not restrict the innovative and entrepreneurial opportunities that made America such a great nation.

The last thing the federal government should be doing is taking more money away from hard-working Americans. The key to growing our economy is allowing Americans to keep more of their own money to spend, save, and invest. Jobs is my favorite four letter word—and the tax cuts we've passed have been responsible for creating millions of new jobs across the nation.

In the House, we have worked hard to cut taxes. We have passed legislation to permanently eliminate the marriage penalty tax, extend Alternative Minimum Tax reforms, permanently expand the 10 percent bracket to lower taxes for hard working, low income families, and keep the child tax credit at the \$1,000. That's real tax relief.

Our American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, provides tax relief to domestic manufacturers and U.S. employers to make them more competitive both at home and abroad.

We must also strengthen the economy by reforming our tax code. The overly complex U.S. tax code is more than a burden to working families; it's a drain on our economic efficiency and productivity. American taxpayers spend over three billion hours each year complying with a confusing U.S. tax code. The cost to our economy by complying with the tax code is a staggering \$85 billion a year. That's unacceptable.

This week we passed legislation to relieve families and small businesses of onerous and complicated tax compliance. I will continue to vote for tax relief and tax reform. Tax cuts and tax reforms are a powerful economic stimulus creating new jobs; reducing the cost of doing business; and providing a framework for long-term economic growth.

CORRECTING THE RECORD REGARDING UNFOUNDED ATTACKS ON FDA GENERAL COUNSEL

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 13, 2004, on the floor of this House, Representative HINCHEY of New York made several statements about Daniel E. Troy, Chief Counsel of the FDA.

Allegations were leveled against Mr. Troy that he took unprecedented action regarding the FDA's involvement in the submission of briefs in product liability cases. His actions were neither unprecedented nor unusual. In a letter dated July 15, 2004, to Chairman BONILLA, five former FDA chief counsels—two of them Democrats—state, Mr. Troy's actions in this regard are neither "radical" nor "even novel."

The FDA must have the ability to carry out the responsibilities Congress has given the Agency. His interest in those cases is to vindicate FDA's authority over medical product risk communication and to safeguard the agency's primary jurisdiction. As Chief Counsel for the FDA, Mr. Troy appears to have acted com-

pletely within the scope of his duties and obligations. In order to address the allegation that Mr. Troy acted inappropriately, I would like to submit a copy of that letter for the RECORD.

JULY 15, 2004.

Re Hinchey amendment to cut \$500,000 from the appropriations for the FDA Office of Chief Counsel.

Hon. HENRY BONILLA,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The undersigned comprise all of the former Chief Counsel to the Food and Drug Administration (in both Republican and Democratic Administrations), except for one who is currently an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services. We are writing to recommend reconsideration of the amendment to the FDA appropriations bill by Representative Hinchey of New York on the floor of the House of Representatives, which would reduce the appropriation for the FDA Office of Chief Counsel by \$500,000 and would increase the appropriation for the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications in the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research by a corresponding amount. We support additional funds for the Division of Drug Marketing, but we believe that the reduction of the appropriation for the Office of Chief Counsel and Representative Hinchey's reasons for penalizing that Office cannot be supported.

FDA's Office of Chief Counsel performs critical functions in the administration and enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and other laws administered by FDA. The substantial reduction in the funding of that Office, therefore, would materially impair its ability to meet the needs of its client, FDA. Such impairment would be contrary to the public interest.

Representative Hinchey's reasons for penalizing the Office of Chief Counsel and criticizing FDA Chief Counsel Daniel E. Troy are set forth in the House Debate on the FDA appropriations legislation as reported in 150 Cong. Rec. H5598-TI5599 (July 13, 2004). Representative Hinchey states that Mr. Troy "has taken the agency in a radical new direction" by submitting amicus curiae briefs in cases in which courts have been asked to require labeling for pharmaceutical products that conflicts with FDA decisions about appropriate labeling for those products. Representative Hinchey characterizes this activity as a "pattern of collusion between the FDA and the drug companies and medical device companies" in a way that has "never happened before."

These characterizations are inaccurate. In *Weinberger v. Bentex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 412 U.S. 645 (1973), the Supreme Court agreed with the briefs filed by the Department of Justice on behalf of FDA that the agency has primary jurisdiction over new drug issues. In *Jones v. Rath Packing Co.*, 425 U.S. 933 (1977), the FDA took the position in an amicus curiae brief submitted by the Department of Justice that federal food labeling requirements preempt inconsistent state requirements, and the Supreme Court agreed. In subsequent private tort litigation, FDA has taken the position, through amicus curiae briefs filed by the Department of Justice, that FDA decisions regarding drug product labeling and related issues preempt inconsistent state court determinations, and the courts have agreed. E.g., *Bernhardt v. Pfizer, Inc.*, 2000 U.S. Dist. Lexis 16963 (November 16, 2000); *Eli Lilly v. Marshall*, 850 S.W. 2d 164 (Texas 1993). All of this was to

protect a uniform national system of food and drug law. All of it occurred before Mr. Troy assumed his current position. In none of these cases did any court request FDA's opinion. Thus, there is ample precedent for the actions that Mr. Troy has recently been undertaking. His action is not radical or even novel.

The amicus curiae briefs filed by the Department of Justice at the request of Mr. Troy protect FDA's jurisdiction and the integrity of the federal regulatory process. There is a greater need for FDA intervention today because plaintiffs in courts are intruding more heavily on FDA's primary jurisdiction than ever before. In our judgment, Mr. Troy's actions are in the best interests of the consuming public and FDA. If every state judge and jury could fashion their own labeling requirements for drugs and medical devices, there would be regulatory chaos for these two industries that are so vital to the public health, and FDA's ability to advance the public health by allocating scarce space in product labeling to the most important information would be seriously eroded. By assuring FDA's primary jurisdiction over these matters, Mr. Troy is establishing a sound policy of national decisions that promote the public health and, thus, the public interest.

We therefore recommend that the \$500,000 cut from the appropriations for the FDA Office of Chief Counsel be restored.

Sincerely yours,

PETER BARTON HUTT (1972–1975).

RICHARD A. MERRILL (1975–1977).

RICHARD M. COOPER (1977–1979).

NANCY L. BUC (1980–1981).

THOMAS SCARLETT (1981–1989).

THE ISSUE OF BONUS DEPRECIATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to address an important issue. Over the past 2–3 years, the issue of bonus depreciation has been very important to American companies and American workers as our economy recovers from the recent recession.

On March 9, 2002, President Bush signed the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 into law. This law allows businesses to accelerate the depreciation of equipment they purchase between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2004. They get to accelerate 30 percent more in the first year. Before this law, a \$1,000 computer would be depreciated equally over 5 years. \$200 each year. With this change, businesses get \$200 in the first year, plus a 30 percent bonus. So, they depreciate \$500 in the first year and the remaining \$500 over the next four years (\$125 each year for four years). In 2003, President Bush signed legislation to increase the 30 percent bonus depreciation to 50 percent. There is evidence that bonus depreciation is helping to drive the U.S. economic recovery.

Fifty percent bonus depreciation will expire on December 31, 2004. I personally will continue working to try to extend this important provision. For some industries, such small aircraft manufacturers, this provision will expire

much sooner than December 2004. Because of the relatively long period of time it takes to build these airplanes, many manufacturers cannot promise delivery by the end of this year. Because of this, new orders are drying up.

Why is this important? Well, building new airplanes requires workers. Increased orders requires increased workers. In May 2004, Cessna announced they would be hiring back 400 workers to meet increased demand.

Both the House and Senate versions of the JOBS bill includes a provision extending the period for placing in service certain non-commercial business aircraft. Under the provision, if such an aircraft is ordered in 2004 and certain additional requirements are met, then a taxpayer would have until the end of 2005 to place the aircraft in service.

I believe it is important that Congress enact this provision, either in the JOBS bill or through another vehicle, as soon as possible. I look forward to working with my colleagues to help make this happen.

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be introducing this legislation with Chairman BARTON that will protect more than \$1 billion in State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funding. This funding is scheduled to revert to the Treasury on September 30 if Congress does not act.

The SCHIP program was established in 1997 to reduce the number of uninsured children. Since its inception, the program has been a great success. Last year, 5.8 million children were enrolled.

As a result of this success, however, a number of States are projected to have insufficient federal funding to sustain their existing programs over the next several years. Unless Congress acts, more than 200,000 children could lose their health insurance coverage as a result.

The solution Chairman BARTON and I are proposing has the support of the National Governors Association, along with a number of advocacy groups representing the concerns of children.

I look forward to working together to enact this legislation when we return in September.

ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL TRAIL

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to create the Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail.

At the end of the Ice Age, 12,000–17,000 years ago, a series of cataclysmic floods occurred in what is now the northwest region of the United States. These floods left dramatic and distinguishing features on the landscape

throughout Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

In 2001, a joint study team headed by the National Park Service, that included 70 members from public and private entities, completed a study endorsing the establishment of the Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail to recognize the national significance of this phenomenon and to coordinate public and private sector entities in the presentation of the story of the Ice Age Floods.

The Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail would reveal, to the public, a fascinating story that spans across the Pacific Northwest. Regional, national, and international travelers would have the opportunity to discover how immensely powerful cataclysmic floods had a profound effect in shaping distinctive landscapes and in defining ways of life, from the flanks of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The Trail can be expected to generate significant economic benefit, through increased tourism, in a vast and largely rural region. I ask you to refer this legislation to the appropriate committee for consideration.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER (NESC) ON ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, a milestone anniversary is being celebrated this month at West Virginia University, in my Congressional District. Twenty-five years ago, the National Small Flows Clearinghouse first opened its doors. It was established by Professors Willem Van Eck and Raul Zaltzman, who wanted to help smaller communities find the best technologies to meet their water treatment needs.

Today, the Small Flows Clearinghouse is a highly successful program of the National Environmental Services Center (NESC). Since 1979, this organization has evolved into a national leader in combating pollution and assisting small communities on water issues. NESC is an expert resource not only on wastewater, but also drinking water, environmental training, infrastructure security and utility management. From its offices in Morgantown, NESC helps to protect public health and the environment in communities all across the country.

The organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary with an open house on July 26 at the university's Evansdale Campus. In marking the occasion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to President David Hardesty, Vice President for Research and Economic Development John Weete, and the NESC team: Executive Director John Mori, Director of Program Development Pam Schade and the entire staff, both past and present.

Their commitment to the health of our people and communities has achieved real results, and I wish them the very best as they begin NESC's next quarter-century of service.

H.R. 3684 FOOD ALLERGEN AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3684, the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act. This act mandates clear labeling to protect consumers from medical problems caused by the eight major food allergens: milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans. These irritants are found in a wide variety of packaged foods, and account for an estimated 90 percent of all food allergies.

Food allergies can drastically affect the quality of life for the seven million Americans who suffer from them. Approximately 30,000 individuals each year require emergency room treatment for food allergies, and about 150 die each year. The eight percent of all children in America who have these allergies and their families deserve our help and support in dealing with the challenges they face in their daily lives.

As there is no cure for food allergies, the only protection against reactions to these foods is to avoid them altogether. But without proper labeling, parents cannot ever be sure their children are safe. One mislabeled product, one misleading claim, can be fatal. We need tough standards to ensure that food producers provide adequate information on packaging. This legislation provides those standards by requiring that foods containing any of the eight major food allergens be labeled in a clear and easy-to-understand way, so parents can feel confident in their choices.

This bill also addresses trace allergens, another major concern of those who live with food allergies. Products which claim to be allergen free can still be contaminated with these products during the manufacturing process. This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to effectively track which foods are unintentionally contaminated with major food allergens during the manufacturing process, and to recommend alternate processes to reduce such contamination.

Mr. Speaker, food allergies create a major obstacle for allergy sufferers and their families. The dangers of allergic reactions restrict options for travel, socializing, working and learning. This legislation can help prevent avoidable allergic reactions and provide additional peace of mind to families. I commend the gentlelady (Mrs. LOWEY) from New York for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO NAME A POST OFFICE IN ROSINE, KENTUCKY, AFTER BILL MONROE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, the tradition of Bluegrass music is something we

can all be proud of. It is a very significant part of the culture that I cherish and is as much Kentucky as horses and basketball. There is one man we can all recognize for this pride, the father of Bluegrass music, Bill Monroe.

Mr. Monroe is the creator of a musical art form that is focused, and often composed, of the family. In 1939, he founded the legendary band the Blue Grass Boys, which at times included the guitarist Lester Flatt, banjo picker Earl Scruggs, fiddle player Chubby Wise, and his son, bass player James Monroe.

In 1970, Mr. Monroe was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. The following year, he was recognized for his songwriting craft and was entered into the Nashville Songwriters Association International Hall of Fame. Mr. Monroe was also rightfully recognized with the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Monroe's songs like "Kentucky Waltz" bring back pleasant memories of the past that we tell our children about. Because of the influence he has had on me and many others I am honored today to introduce legislation that names the post office in Rosine, KY after Mr. Monroe. This is one small way that I, as a Member of Congress, can recognize a lifelong idol who is a proud part of the lives of many Kentuckians.

HONORING JOSEPH AND ANNE QUINN ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph and Anne Quinn of Smithtown, New York, who will observe their 50th wedding anniversary on August 15th, 2004. Born in New York City, they met as freshmen in college. Joe was a student at Iona College in New Rochelle and Anne attended St. John's University. They were married on August 1, 1954 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Jackson Heights, New York. The Quinns moved to Suffolk County in 1955 when Joe began a thirty-three year career in education with the Middle Country School District. The couple has lived in Smithtown since 1958.

The Quinns have ten children—Kathleen, Terence, Brendan, Marybeth, Patrick, Neil, Regina, Timothy, Lawrence, and Julianne—all of whom are married. They are the proud grandparents of twenty-two.

Joseph retired in January 2003 from a second career as Staff Assistant to Congressman GARY ACKERMAN. Anne retired in December 2002 from her position as a New York State Taxpayer Service Representative. Mr. Quinn was Chair of the Smithtown Democratic Committee for twenty-two years and is still greatly interested in politics.

The Quinns have been active members of St. Patrick's Parish since moving to Smithtown. They plan to continue travelling all over the country to visit their widespread family.

The Quinns will mark their fiftieth anniversary with a renewal of vows at St. Patrick's Church and a dinner at the Bellport Country Club. Their children have also planned a family trip to Colorado as a reunion to celebrate this landmark anniversary.

I am proud to honor this distinguished couple and their long-standing commitment to the community and to one another.

TRIBUTE TO FILM AND TELEVISION COMPOSER JERRY GOLDSMITH

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of one of this nation's great cinematic artists, composer Jerry Goldsmith. Mr. Goldsmith died on July 21, 2004 at the age of 75. He leaves behind a distinguished repertoire of outstanding and memorable film scores and television themes that are as recognizable as they are innovative.

Scoring movies and television programs is a vastly underappreciated art form. Too often this music is considered as just another part of things that are popular but are only entertainment, not art. However, his scores, like the work of his colleague film and television composers, are essentially classical music pieces. As such, they should not be dismissed simply because they happen to be associated with films and television shows, which in fact are valid art forms.

As anyone in the entertainment industry can attest, music is an essential and integral part of the final artistic product. It sets appropriate moods and tones and can help make action scenes more thrilling and tense as well as stir the emotions in more quiet interludes. Mr. Goldsmith was a master at the full range of his craft often creating path-breaking and innovative scores.

The sound of his echoing trumpets for the soundtrack of the movie "Patton" has so permeated the culture that this music is now synonymous with military leaders. His spooky and menacing chants for the film "The Omen," for which he won the Academy Award, is now standard for horror films. And his experimental use of electronics, woodwinds and percussion helped create the sense of "other worldliness" in the film "Planet of the Apes." The fact that these musical themes and many others of his are so widely recognized and copied not only acknowledges his versatility and genius, but also underscores the legitimacy of the scoring craft.

Jerry Goldsmith was born Jerrald Goldsmith on February 10th 1929 in Los Angeles, California. At the beginning of the 1940s, he took piano lessons from Jakob Gimpel and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. While attending the University of California, he took classes with Mikols Rozsa, the famed composer of such films as "Ben-Hur," "Ivanhoe," "El Cid" and "Spellbound."

Mr. Goldsmith started his career at CBS television in the early 1950s as a clerk typist and eventually got assignments composing music for radio plays, and later for television broadcasts. He eventually wrote music for such famous television shows such as "The Twilight Zone," "Dr. Kildare," "The Man From U.N.C.L.E.," "The Waltons," "Barnaby Jones," "Star Trek: Voyager" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Mr. Goldsmith's first motion picture score was in 1957 for a long forgotten B-western

named "Black Patch." However, his first major recognition as a film composer did not occur until 1962 for his score of the Kirk Douglas film "Lonely Are the Brave." That same year, he got his first Academy Award nomination for the film "Freud."

Throughout his career, he became associated with distinguished directors such as the late Franklin J. Schaffner who, with Mr. Goldsmith scoring, made "Planet Of The Apes," "Patton," "Papillon," "The Boys From Brazil," and "Lionheart." He also worked on a number of Paul Verhoeven films including "Total Recall," "Basic Instinct," and "Hollow Man." He wrote the scores for director Fred Schepisi films "The Russia House," "Mr. Baseball," "Six Degrees Of Separation," and "I.Q." And director Joe Dante gave Mr. Goldsmith the opportunity to show his talents for films like "Twilight Zone: The Movie," "Gremlins I and II," "Innerspace," "Explorers," "The 'burbs," "Matinee," and "Small Soldiers."

Mr. Goldsmith received 17 Academy Award nominations for his work starting in 1962 for "Freud," and including his work on films such as "Chinatown," "Hoosiers," "Basic Instinct," "LA Confidential," and finally for his score of the animated "Mulan" in 1998. He won four Emmy Awards for his television work and was nominated for five Grammy Awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life and work of Jerry Goldsmith. He was a national treasure. Although we will no longer get the opportunity to hear new scores from him, his musical legacy will live on in his recordings for generations.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, declaring the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, as genocide.

In Darfur, villages are being burned to the ground. Death squads herd African villagers into refugee camps until they are full to bursting, lacking food and basic medicines.

In a matter of months, government-backed militias have killed 30,000 people and forced more than one million from their homes.

People talk about "indicators of genocide" and lawyers argue whether the killing, which the administration has already characterized as ethnic cleansing, is genocide.

Whatever label one attaches to these killings, there is a moral obligation to do everything possible to stop them. To ignore slaughter on this scale is unforgivable.

To its credit, the administration is pushing a UN Security Council resolution. But as that process unfolds, the killing continues.

The time has come for action, for the international community to exercise its moral and political and arguably also legal obligations to intervene in Darfur.

Genocide has shown its ugly face too often this century: European Jews during World War II, Cambodians in the late 1970s, and Rwandans in 1994.

The lesson is clear. We must stop the genocide; prevent further atrocities; and bring those

guilty of genocide or ethnic cleansing to justice.

INTRODUCTION OF POVERTY STATS LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation with Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY, D-MO, that requires the annual poverty estimate and the National Assessment of Educational Progress to be subject to certain guidelines on the release of the information to the public. I am deeply concerned at what appears to be the politicization of data by the Bush Administration on important issues ranging from worker safety to the dangers of lead paint to emergency contraceptives. Because data regarding poverty and educational progress are essential to lawmakers at all levels of government to implement policies addressing these issues, it is critical that this information is disseminated in an open and timely process.

Last year, the Census Bureau decided to break with tradition to release its annual poverty estimates on a Friday in Suitland, Maryland, rather than during the middle of the week at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Because that report was expected to announce the loss of millions of jobs, the questionable circumstances regarding the release of those statistics led myself and Representative CLAY to seek an investigation by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, as to why the Census Bureau made its decision. We should not be playing politics with science, which is why I believe this legislation is so important.

C. J. CHEN, TECRO
REPRESENTATIVE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, C. J. Chen soon will be concluding his term as Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office ("TECRO"). In this capacity C. J. Chen has spent the past four years as Taiwan's unofficial ambassador to the United States, an important posting and a critical position for the twenty-three million people on Taiwan.

Few diplomats have a greater understanding about East Asia and the United States than C. J. Chen. He has been a member of Taiwan's foreign service for more than three and one half decades, and he has spent most of that time focused on fostering ties between Taiwan and the United States. By all accounts, he has done an excellent job.

Representative Chen's diplomatic career has been most impressive. He has held a number of important positions in Taiwan's Ministry of External Affairs and capped his long diplomatic career in Taipei by being named Foreign Minister. During the past four years while serving as head of TECRO, Representa-

tive Chen has used his vast experience to preserve and expand ties between Taipei and Washington. Representative Chen's advice and counsel have always been sought by Members of Congress who have a keen interest in matters involving the Taiwan Straits. Therefore, his impending departure is a loss for Taiwan's friends in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I wish Representative Chen and his lovely wife Yolanda well as they prepare to return to Taipei for new challenges. I look forward to seeing him again in Taipei or when he returns to Washington in the months ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS FOR MERCHANT MARINERS ACT OF 2004

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Social Security Fairness for Merchant Mariners Act of 2004" (H.R. 4904).

There were three major roles in World War II: the fighting forces overseas, the production army at home, and the link between them—the United States Merchant Marine. The maritime power of the Merchant Marine may have been the difference between victory and defeat.

The World War II Merchant Mariners suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of service while they delivered troops, tanks, food, airplanes, fuel and other needed supplies to every theater of the war. Enemy forces sank over 800 ships between 1941 and 1944 alone.

Given the role of the Merchant Mariners in World War II, it is unbelievable that they were not given their proper recognition as "veterans". I would hope that this was an oversight, not a deliberate attempt to exclude them from benefits.

One of the results of this lack of the "veteran" designation is that the law does not recognize Merchant Mariners as veterans for Social Security purposes. If they had the veteran designation, their Social Security would have been calculated as if they had earned \$160 more a month than they did earn during their time in service in the Merchant Marines. Of course, what this means is a smaller Social Security check, now that they are retired.

My bill H.R. 4904, will fix this unfair situation! It will provide benefits with the status of "veteran" under the Social Security Act to the Merchant Mariners who served during World War II.

Combined with my bill, the "Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II" (H.R. 3729), which would compensate them for their exclusion from GI Bill benefits, Congress can fix the injustice that has been endured by the Merchant Mariners. We can never make up for years lost, but we can provide additional benefits to Merchant Mariners, many of whom are living on small, fixed incomes, in their final years.

I urge my colleagues to support and co-sponsor H.R. 4904

CONGRATULATING INDIANA
BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR
AWARD RECIPIENT, HAROLD A.
WELTER

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Harold Welter for receiving the Indiana Football Coaches Association "2004 Broadcaster of the Year Award."

For 39 years Harold Welter has been the voice of high school sports in Indiana's Kankakee Valley. If there was an important football game, boy's basketball game, girl's basketball game, and even sometimes a baseball game in the area, Harold was there broadcasting it on WKVI radio.

Though Harold is a die-hard fan of his hometown Knox High School Redskins, he broadcasts each game in a professional and impartial manner that brings the action of the game to life for his listeners. He also regularly invites local individuals to be guest commentators on a night's game, a privilege I have had on one occasion.

Harold has gone the extra mile promoting high school sports. He established a Saturday morning radio show now called "Saturday Sportsline" on WKVI which recognizes outstanding high school sports teams and athletes through in-depth interviews with coaches and players that let listeners learn more about our local sports heroes.

This year, the Indiana Football Coaches Association recognized Harold's dedication to high school sports in Indiana by naming him their "Broadcaster of the Year." It is a tremendous honor and well deserved. His sincerity and concern for the lives of young adults is admirable and recognized by all who know him.

From his first job in radio at WRIN in Rensselaer, Indiana, to his many years of calling high school sports in the Kankakee Valley, Harold has kept his listeners tuning in. I am pleased to join other Hoosier sports fans in honoring Harold for his contributions to Indiana high school sports and congratulate him again for being named "Broadcaster of the Year" by the Indiana Football Coaches Association.

**THE HEALTHY START
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004**

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to announce that, along with my colleagues Representatives EDOLPHUS TOWNS, CHARLES "CHIP" PICKERING, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, ROSA DELAURO, JOHN SPRATT, BOBBY RUSH, JIM MARSHALL, and DANNY DAVIS, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the Healthy Start Act, H.R. 4905.

The Healthy Start program works to reduce the incidence of infant mortality and low birth weight and eliminate perinatal disparities in communities across the Nation where the infant mortality rate is in excess of 150 percent

of the national average. The program, which began as a successful demonstration project in 1991 under the leadership of Health and Human Services Secretary Lewis Sullivan and was overwhelmingly authorized by Congress in 2000, has at its core the recognition that infant mortality and morbidity are not just medical problems, they are community problems. To qualify for a Healthy Start grant, communities must buy-in by forming networks of community public and private decision-makers and leaders, educators, health professionals, and family members to set ambitious goals for themselves and work in a coordinated and effective way to meet those goals. These programs are targeted to at-risk populations and are characterized by aggressive outreach to reach young women who are pregnant and/or are already mothers, as well as fathers, who live in communities with the toughest poverty, drug use, and unemployment.

We are fortunate to have a Healthy Start program in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in my Congressional district. Our Healthy Start Family Resource Center offers prenatal care, WIC resources, transportation, personal counseling and many other services. So far, 100 percent of the expectant mothers who have received prenatal care and other services through the Center have delivered healthy, full-term babies.

The Healthy Start Reauthorization Act will reauthorize the program for fiscal years 2005 through 2010 at "such sums as may be necessary."

**RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR GENERAL RONALD L.
LOWE**

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Congress and the nation take great pride in formally recognizing the exceptionally meritorious military service of Major General Ronald L. Lowe, U.S. Army, who completes his tour as the Chief of Staff, United States Pacific Command on the 29th of July 2004. This significant milestone marks the completion of more than 38 years of active and reserve service to the nation.

Major General Ronald L. Lowe was assigned to the position of Chief of Staff, U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii on 4 June 2000. Prior to joining the USPACOM staff, General Lowe served for three years as the Deputy Commander for Support, Eighth U.S. Army, Yongsan, Korea. In this role he served as the senior wartime logistician responsible for battle command of all Army combat service support forces in the Korea theater of operations. Earlier, MG Lowe served for four years as Vice Director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications and Computers (DISC4), Office of the Secretary of the Army, with duty at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Prior to recall to active duty under the Defense Department's "Chairman's Ten" program, General Lowe held U.S. Army Reserve command assignments with the 351st Civil Affairs Command, the 7th Psychological Operations Group and the 14th Psychological Op-

erations Battalion. During the early years of his career General Lowe served on active duty as a mechanized infantry platoon leader, company commander and battalion logistics officer, in Europe. Later he served as a Deputy District Senior Advisor in the Republic of Vietnam and as Chief of the Enlisted Separations Branch of the U.S. Army Personnel Center.

General Lowe is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Civil Affairs Officer Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Jose State University and Certificates in Procurement and Applied Total Quality Management from the University of California, Berkeley. He has participated in advanced management programs at the University of California at Los Angeles, Michigan State University and Harvard University. In civilian life, General Lowe retired from Pacific Bell, an SBC Communications subsidiary, in 1997. Prior to his retirement he served as Pacific Bell's Executive Director of General Contracting. More recently he worked in Europe as a senior consultant for KPMG. He is a past President of the Senior Army Reserve Commanders Association, SARCA, and the National Civil Affairs Association and he currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Association of the U.S. Army.

General Lowe has been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and various other decorations.

The U.S. Congress congratulates MG Lowe on his retirement, and extends its gratitude for his many years of service to our nation.

**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JOHN
REAGAN MCKEE ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mr. John Reagan McKee on the occasion of his retirement. On June 4, 2004, Mr. McKee retired after thirty years as an English teacher at Libbey High School in Toledo, OH.

To truly do Mr. McKee justice would not be to speak of his achievements by the awards he received or the teams he coached; it would be to speak of the kind of educator he was. John McKee was able to turn discouraging circumstances into opportunities.

John McKee introduced students to their potential and his belief in their character guided and motivated children to fulfill their dreams. For the past five years, the Graduating class has chosen Mr. McKee as the teacher who influenced them most.

Whether an English teacher, basketball coach or Advisor on the school paper, John McKee brought out the best in his students and made sure they recognized it as well. In doing so, he ensured himself a permanent spot in the memories of his students as one who truly believed in them. Among students

and among his fellow teachers, his presence at Libbey will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, the profession of education is not merely a job, it is a lifestyle. My appreciation for teachers runs deep. And my appreciation for dedicating one's life to the advancement of education runs deeper. John McKee has effectively displayed a commitment to his community. John's passion for education is what makes him a model citizen of the Fifth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to John Reagan McKee for thirty years of success as an educator. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize John McKee's great achievement. We wish John and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

HONORING OVERSTOCK.COM FOR
THEIR EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a Utah company for the help it has given to the recently freed people of Afghanistan.

Overstock.com, founded in 1999, is one of Utah's best performing companies and a leader in liquidating excess inventory through the Internet. For nearly five years, Overstock.com has operated on principles of value investing and fair deals, which is why it has become a leader on the Internet.

Overstock.com has also done great work abroad as well. Worldstock is the socially responsible goods department of Overstock.com that contracts with skilled craftspeople in developing countries and helps them sell their products. I am proud to say that this Utah based company is now Afghanistan's largest private employer. The Ministry of Commerce in Afghanistan reported that Worldstock has made it possible for 1,400 Afghans—90 percent of them women—to earn a living. This is a quite a feat, considering that just a few short years ago Afghans, especially women, were living under the oppressive Taliban regime.

In Afghanistan, Overstock.com has been able to utilize technology to provide employment for this developing country. Overstock.com has given Afghans the skills needed for long-term business success. Additionally, Overstock.com has said that it will not make a profit of more than one percent on goods sold through its Worldstock division. This policy has allowed women, prevented from working under the Taliban regime, to now flourish. Global trade and commerce are now a reality to the Afghani people thanks in part to the efforts of Overstock.com.

I would also like to recognize the founder and CEO of Overstock.com, Dr. Patrick Byrne. Being a three-time cancer survivor has not slowed down his altruism, productivity or creativity. It is Dr. Byrne's vision that drives Overstock.com and its work in Afghanistan. In 2003, Dr. Byrne hired Neelab Kaniska, an Afghan woman who fled her homeland when she was a child, to manage Worldstock. This position allowed Neelab to return to her native country and work with local artisans and pro-

vide them with the technological tools that now employ over 1500.

Overstock.com and Dr. Patrick Byrne understand the importance of all markets whether it is the individual consumer, small business owner, or an artisan in a developing country. I applaud their efforts and their representation of Utah, American business, and the American spirit.

IN MEMORY OF NEIL HAVENS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Neil Havens, former postmaster of my hometown of Simi Valley, California, and a man for whom community was family and who epitomized the spirit of Simi Valley.

Neil Havens died peacefully Friday at the age of 74 in his favorite chair in the home he and his wife, Pat, moved into soon after they married in 1951. A fourth-generation Simi Valley native, Neil was appointed postmaster by President Dwight Eisenhower, taking over from his father, Charles Reuben Havens. His grandfather, Charles Albert Havens, also delivered the post in Simi Valley.

And while his 30-year reign as postmaster guaranteed him a place in Simi Valley's history, it was Neil's commitment to community that guaranteed him a place in the hearts of all who knew him.

Neil Havens was a longtime Rotarian. He served as president of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley twice. He was one of the founding members of the Simi Valley Education Foundation. He served on the board of the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center Foundation. He was a member of the Salvation Army Disaster Team. He raised money for Simi Valley Hospital. He was active in the U.S. Naval Reserve. And the list goes on.

But that is not what people talk about when they talk about Neil Havens. They talk about his firm handshake and his ready smile framed by a trademark jawline beard. They talk about how many friends he had and how he called every week. They talk about how their lawn was mysteriously mowed when they fell ill, to find out later that it was Neil who wielded the mysterious mower. They talk about how he visited sick friends every day they were ill and looked after their family once they passed.

Neil Havens defined community as family. And Neil looked after his family.

Neil is survived by his wife, Pat, herself a community icon. She and Neil graduated together from Simi Valley High School in 1947 and raised three children in Simi Valley, Debra, Barbara and Russ. The City Council named Pat as Simi Valley's first City Historian while I was mayor of the city, a post she still holds along with Director of the Strathearn Historical Park and Museum.

In addition, Neil is survived by four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in sending our condolences to Pat Havens, their children and grandchildren, and pause in remembering a man whose family extended far beyond the bonds of blood and whose life embraced all who knew him. Godspeed, Neil.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. _____, THE
LIBERTY LIST

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, in presenting the 2003 State Department Human Rights Report Secretary of State Colin Powell declared, "We join in solidarity with courageous men and women all over the world who strive to advance human rights and democratic values within their own countries and throughout the international community." Today, I introduce the Liberty List Act that will highlight those courageous men and women and reinforce the special significance of freedom, democracy, and human rights in American foreign policy.

The Liberty List will be an independent annual report issued by the State Department to highlight the work of individuals and organizations, including the media, who promote the development of liberty, democracy, and respect for human rights. In addition to honoring these individuals and organizations for their important contributions to their societies, the Liberty List will draw attention to the conditions against which the honorees struggle and will offer some protection for honorees by identifying them to the international community. A few individuals and groups, such as Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy NLD, are known around the world for their struggle. Yet, for every individual who is known to the international community, there are many other heroes who deserve recognition and support as they risk their own lives for the improvement of others'.

The Liberty List is fundamentally different from the existing State Department Report on International Religious Freedom and the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. Current reports focus on the human rights records of national governments; they deal with the imposition of state power. The Liberty List, in contrast, will spotlight individuals and organizations who are working against that power to build freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights.

Leaders in the struggle for freedom and democracy around the world deserve recognition for the sacrifices and their struggles. It is through the work individuals, who struggle at the local and national levels to improve the lives of their families, friends, and neighbors, that democracy, freedom, and human rights will prevail. The Liberty List Act will establish a means by which the United States can honor these men and women as they strive to make the world a better, safer place.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

THE CASE OF THE HUNGARIAN
GOLD TRAIN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue of justice for Holocaust survivors: the saga of the Hungarian Gold Train, and the role played by the United States government.

As the Presidential Advisory Committee on Holocaust Assets, PCHA, first revealed in full in 1999, this was a dark mark on the otherwise heroic and exemplary role played by the United States in the treatment of Holocaust survivors. In 1944, the Nazis systematically confiscated the property of Hungary's Jews. A train loaded with stolen property was turned over to U.S. Army after World War II ended. Our policy and law required us to return that property to its rightful owners. Instead, the United States refused to return the property to Hungary—despite the pleas of Holocaust survivors. Worse, our government covered up the matter for half a century. As the PCHA concluded, the Gold Train is “an example of an egregious failure of the United States to follow its own policy regarding restitution of Holocaust victims' property after World War II.”

As members of this House are well aware, the United States has been at the forefront of recent worldwide efforts to assure restitution and historic justice for Holocaust survivors. When other nations or their corporations have tried to use legalistic defenses, such as sovereign immunity or statutes of limitations, we have said forthrightly that there is a moral as well as a legal obligation to make historic amends. Sadly, in dealing with the claims of the Hungarian Holocaust survivors, our own government has taken the very approach we have decried elsewhere.

The survivors filed suit in federal court in Miami in 2001 seeking an accounting and restitution. The Justice Department has litigated this case in a manner that appears to ignore its moral dimensions, and that appears to contradict our bipartisan national policy on Holocaust restitution. It has sought to have the case thrown out of court—an effort rejected by Judge Patricia Seitz. It has insisted on taking grueling in-person depositions from dozens of elderly survivors. It only filed a substantive response to the lawsuit three years later. In that response, it chided the survivors themselves for lacking the “due diligence” to learn about the Gold Train, despite the fact that the government itself covered up the story and kept documents classified for decades! This sort of foot-dragging only adds insult to injury. The Department of Justice has a duty, in my view, not only to vigorously uphold the law, but also to pursue justice and seek fair restitution for those victims who lost property on the Gold Train.

The report accompanying the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations bill makes clear the Appropriations Committee's concern over this issue. Report language indicates that the Committee is watching this case carefully. As I told Deputy Attorney General Comey when he testified before the Subcommittee in March, I have heard a great deal about this from Holocaust survivors. I feel very strongly that these individuals should not be dragged through further time-consuming litigation and court proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the judge's order that the Justice Department mediate the case with the survivors is a very positive development. The parties have agreed that Fred Fielding, the former White House counsel to President Reagan and currently a member of the Commission on Terrorist Attacks on the United States, the 9/11 Commission, will conduct the mediation. I will monitor this process, and

work with Mr. Fielding as necessary to see that justice is done. As the report indicates, it is important that the Justice Department treat this mediation seriously and at last resolve this matter in a way that is fair, compassionate, and prompt.

I believe that the most authoritative account of this case—and of the United States government's moral duty to compensate these survivors—was recently written by the Hon. Stuart E. Eizenstat. Ambassador Eizenstat was the Special Representative on Holocaust Restitution Issues during his time as Under Secretary of State and Deputy Treasury Secretary during the 1990s. He sat on the PCHA and is respected worldwide for his balanced leadership on this issue. He recently wrote an article in the *Forward*, the respected Jewish newspaper. I strongly agree with the thrust of this article, and I would like to enter it into the record at the end of this statement.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, justice delayed is justice denied. These Holocaust survivors came to the United States to build new lives, and our government has wrongly withheld the compensation which could have helped in that process. They have been waiting for almost sixty years for justice. They should not have to wait any longer.

[From the *Forward*, June 17, 2004]

INTEGRITY OF THE RESTITUTION PROCESS
RESTS ON SINGLE STANDARD OF JUSTICE

(By Stuart Eizenstat)

During the last decade, Swiss, German, Austrian and French companies and their governments paid some \$8 billion to Jewish and non-Jewish victims of the Third Reich, disgorged thousands of dormant bank accounts, finally honored prewar insurance policies and returned confiscated property and artwork.

The Europeans paid reparations for their conduct during World War II, and restituted property even though their legal liability more than half a century later stood on shaky grounds. They did so in significant part because the American government insisted that they had a moral and historical responsibility to those they wronged.

Now, however, the shoe is on the other foot in the “Hungarian Gold Train” case. The American government is being sued by Jewish survivors for alleged improper handling of assets stolen from them by the pro-Nazi regime in Hungary. Faced with righting what may be America's historical wrong, the Justice Department has forgotten our own message to the world, and is relying on strict legal arguments to escape responsibility.

This is the wrong approach and should be corrected immediately, lest we lose the moral high ground that was indispensable to achieving our agreements—and that remains essential today to ensure our agreements are honored and that other human rights violations are taken seriously.

The U.S. Army was not only heroic in winning World War II, but also had an enviable postwar record in recovering Nazi-looted property. Unlike the Soviet Union, which took away valuable paintings and cultural property as war booty, the American government never tried to enrich itself as the victorious power. In accordance with international legal principles and American policy, art and cultural property was returned to the countries from which it had been taken. In turn, those countries were expected to return the property to the citizens from whom it had been confiscated.

But in regard to the Hungarian Gold Train, the American government followed a starkly different policy. The train, totaling 24 rail cars and holding countless Hungarian Jews' valuables that had been confiscated by the pro-Nazi Hungarian government, was seized by the U.S. Army in Austria in mid-May 1945, just after the war had ended. Despite constant appeals for years by the post-war Hungarian government and the official Hungarian Jewish organizations to return the property—even to simply permit an examination of the valuables—the American government refused. Even the American Legation to Hungary questioned Washington's refusal.

Instead, the U.S. Army declared the Gold Train assets “enemy property” unidentifiable as to individual ownership and national origin, making restitution infeasible. Instead of returning the property to the Hungarian government, as the French army did with other Jewish assets it seized after the war, some senior American military officers requisitioned the property to furnish their apartments in Austria. Other items, such as watches, alarm clocks and cameras, were sold through Army Exchange stores in Austria. More than 1,100 paintings, some with impressive credentials, were transferred by the U.S. Army to the Austrian government. A substantial amount of property was sold for auction in New York, with proceeds transferred to the International Refugee Organization to benefit Holocaust survivors. A small number of items simply were stolen.

None of the property, however, was returned to the large surviving Hungarian Jewish community from whom the Gold Train assets had been confiscated.

After successfully urging more than 20 countries to establish historical commissions to examine their role in dealing with looted Nazi assets, President Clinton followed my recommendation to create our own Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States. The commission, headed by Edgar Bronfman—who played a critical role in exposing the misuse of Jewish bank accounts by Swiss banks—first publicly disclosed the disturbing facts about the Hungarian Gold Train in an interim report in 1999 and in a later report in December 2000. The Bronfman-led commission, in which I served as a commissioner, did not flinch from exposing misjudgments by the American government—just as the Clinton administration did not hesitate to do for so many years with other countries.

Our disclosures led to a private class-action lawsuit, *Irvin Rosner et al v. United States*, by more than 3,000 Hungarian Holocaust survivors against the American government, seeking an accounting of the contents of the Gold Train; a search of U.S. Army posts for the valuables and the return of any Gold Train property still in government hands; and up to \$10,000 in damages from each member of the class of Hungarian Jewish survivors.

Instead of acting as we had urged foreign government and their companies to act, instead of even calling for an investigation of the facts to establish whether there truly was the kind of culpability our presidential commission found, the American government moved to dismiss the case on the basis of the statute of limitations, the sovereign immunity of the United States and the inappropriateness of the federal court system as a proper forum for these claims. The government has subjected elderly survivors to rigorous depositions, and has used an expert

witness, the chair of Tel Aviv University's Jewish history department, to contest some of our commission's findings and the plaintiffs' more sensational allegations.

Even if the Hungarian Gold Train case is questionable on legal grounds, and even though some of the facts remain contested, the moral claim by the survivors that their assets were not returned is solid. What, then, should be done now?

For starters, the mindset of the Bush administration's Justice Department must change. We must hold ourselves to the same rigorous moral and historical accountability to which we have held foreign governments and their corporations. This was the basic argument made by a bipartisan group of 17 senators, including Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Trent Lott of Mississippi, in a recent letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft.

As reported in these pages two weeks ago, U.S. Federal Judge Patricia Seitz granted part of the Justice Department's motion to dismiss the Hungarian Gold Train case, but denied other parts and has ordered the United States to submit to mediation. The Justice Department should now take the opportunity to allow the mediator to review all the records and documents and to weigh the contested facts, including the amount of Hungarian Jewish assets that was actually on the Gold Train.

Of course, it will be almost impossible for survivors to identify individual items that were confiscated from them and to determine which items made their way onto the Gold Train. That is why the Bush administration should apply the same "rough justice" concepts we used in negotiating with the Germans, Austrians, Swiss and French—this time, for the benefit of Hungarian Jewish survivors in the United States, Israel and Hungary.

After all, it was no easier for slave and forced laborers of German and Austrian companies to identify their employers. Yet German and Austrian corporations and their respective governments met their responsibility and paid billions of dollars to survivors, Jews and non-Jews alike. The French government likewise faced its moral responsibility to those victimized by Vichy France.

Justice would be served if the mediator appointed by Seitz was permitted to make a recommendation to the parties, Congress held a hearing on the mediator's findings and on competing allegations, and President Bush asked Congress for a reasonable lump sum payment to be allocated on a per capita basis to living Hungarian Holocaust survivors who file an affidavit identifying their moveable property that was taken in April 1944 by the pro-Nazi regime.

Obviously, the American government is only responsible for what it seized on the Gold Train and failed to return. And the amount should reflect that some of the assets were sold for the benefit of Holocaust survivors in the United States, a small number of whom were Hungarian Jews. The amount, however, is less important than establishing the principle that the United States will hold itself to the same standard to which we have held others.

And importantly, a simple, straightforward apology should accompany the payments for what was likely a singular deviation from the otherwise sterling conduct of the American military after World War II. The United States will then be in a stronger position to continue to urge other countries to meet their responsibilities—and we will have proved that when the shoe is on our foot, we can wear it.

TRIBUTE TO SENIORS DAY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first annual Tribute to Seniors Day to be hosted by the Waldo County YMCA in the City of Belfast, Maine.

The focus of this important day is to honor the seniors of Waldo County and their dedication to their community and their families. This event will give important recognition to our seniors, and will include a health fair and other events and activities that will provide useful social services information.

Tribute to Seniors Day will be a fitting salute to a group that over the years has persevered and seen our country through hard and trying times, including those of the Greatest Generation who lived through the Great Depression and a World War. They were forged in the toughest trials of this century, and they remain community leaders to this day.

While the struggles this generation has faced over the years have changed, today the important fight is for affordable health care and prescription drugs, and our seniors are leading the charge. There is no greater gift of gratitude that we can give to our seniors than to join them in this fight and improve Medicare in order to make prescription drugs affordable for all.

I am certain that this event will be a resounding success for years to come and will provide other areas with a model through which to recognize the lifelong dedication and service provided by local seniors. I encourage everyone in Waldo County to attend this important event and lend their support for their friends and family as we celebrate Tribute to Seniors Day.

To our seniors who have lived through and experienced so much, and who still remain pillars of our community, I salute you.

MEMORIALIZING ROBERT MASAHIRO YOSHIKAWA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Mr. Robert Masahiro Yoshikawa who recently passed away. He was a pillar of the community and a personal friend of mine. Mr. Yoshikawa made an immeasurable impact on all those around him through his career, his volunteer work, and his devotion to family. His tireless efforts improved the lives of countless people in his community.

I met Robert Yoshikawa many years ago when we were both students at San Jose State University. From that moment on, he continually amazed me with his unwavering selflessness and his extraordinary dedication to the community. Throughout his life, he consistently put others before himself through volunteering and his active involvement with his

church, his family activities, and his neighborhood.

For those who are unfamiliar with Mr. Yoshikawa's life, I would like to take a moment to highlight some of his extraordinary contributions. In addition to serving as President of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, Bob served on the board of directors of both the SJB and Fuji Towers and played an integral part on many committees. Mr. Yoshikawa served as past chairman of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Ministerial Affairs and Obon Committees, as well as being a charter member and current president of the Young Japanese Adults. In 2002, Robert was presented with the Volunteer Recognition Award by the Junior League of San Jose.

In addition to his extensive volunteer work, Mr. Yoshikawa was a wonderful husband to his wife Phyllis and father to his sons, Mark and Scott. He served as an ideal role model for his sons, teaching them right from wrong, imparting to them a spirit of service, and making time to involve himself in their lives and activities. He could often be seen videotaping his sons' football games or driving them to various Boy Scouts, sporting or church activities in his Chevy Suburban. He would constantly guide his sons with sage advice from his experience and the experiences of his own father. He was a man of strong conviction, who stood behind his decisions without wavering.

Robert Yoshikawa, a second generation American, was born in Newcastle, California in 1940. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Sierra Junior College before matriculating on to San Jose State where he received a degree in mechanical engineering and met his future wife, Phyllis Osaki. The couple first lived in an apartment in Sunnyvale, but spent the past 37 years in the house in San Jose that they watched being built. It was there they raised their two boys. Robert worked at Lockheed Martin until his retirement in 2003. At Lockheed, Robert's robust engineering skills and attention to detail were instrumental in the success of several important projects. He was praised for being accurate and efficient, and his remarkable patience and experience made him a valuable mentor to the younger engineers at Lockheed.

Upon retiring from his job at Lockheed Martin after 40 years, Mr. Yoshikawa embarked on yet another chapter in his full life. Though he and Phyllis had already traveled the globe, he had even more trips planned and was enjoying his return to improving his golf game with other retired friends. Always wanting to be useful, he also agreed to volunteer at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose as just one more in his myriad of community services. It was on March 24, while volunteering at the museum, that Mr. Yoshikawa died of a heart attack. Since he was in apparent excellent health, his passing came as quite a shock to all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a friend and a role model. I knew Robert for 40 years and he was as inspirational to me the last time I saw him, as he was when we first met. I know that the people of the Bay Area appreciate everything that this wonderful man has done for them and I feel privileged for having known him.

TRIBUTE TO KELLER HAYES

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the notable accomplishments of a remarkable woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize Keller Hayes for her impressive record of business and civic leadership as well as her invaluable service to our state and community.

Keller Hayes has used her time, skill and energy to make Colorado a better place. She came to our community from a small ranch in rural Nebraska and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in Journalism and Women's Studies. She worked for various publishing houses, including a trade publication in Minnesota and for Monterey Life in California before joining the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce.

For Keller, the economic empowerment of women has meaning. Whether advocating for passage of a pay-equity resolution at the statehouse or developing a Women's Business Certification program to allow women-owned companies to gain greater access to corporate and government contracts, Keller has been a champion for social and economic empowerment. She believes in the mission of the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce and during her tenure as President, she gave its mission new life and helped build a dynamic organization. When Keller took up the job, she and a part-time person were the only staff the chamber had. Today, the organization has eight staff people, boasts 1,700 members and has become the largest women's chamber in the country. Under Keller's leadership, the Women's Chamber created a structure that promotes the economic advancement of its members and provides meaningful leadership for women in business. Keller has opened doors and garnered respect for the women's business community. She has brought other women along and helped get them a seat at the table. Keller has fought for recognition of both the immeasurable contribution of women to our economy and the full value of women's abilities. As a result of her leadership, business women have become a more powerful force in our city and our state.

For her efforts, Keller was chosen the 2001 Outstanding Woman in Business Nonprofit by the Denver Business Journal and 2002 Women in Business Advocate of the Year in Region VIII for the Small Business Administration. But it takes a special person to reach a high level of professional accomplishment and still find the time and energy to give back to the community. Over the past six years, Keller has volunteered for the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center as an on-line counselor, volunteer trainer, speaker and public relations volunteer. Not only has Keller used her skills and talents to promote the economic empowerment of women, she has done much to advance the well-being of our people.

While I believe many of us are saddened Keller has left the Women's Chamber, I am confident that her leadership, skill and experience will be of great benefit to all of us in her new venture and we look forward to her continued involvement in our civic life.

Please join me commending Keller Hayes for her professional achievement, community service and active involvement in helping women attain professional excellence and a dynamic voice in public life. It is the strong leadership she exhibits on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

HONORING BILL LYNCH AS DEPUTY MANAGER FOR KERRY-EDWARDS CAMPAIGN
HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the appointment of William (Bill) Lynch Jr. as Deputy Campaign Manager for the Kerry-Edwards Presidential Campaign.

A Harlem native and former Deputy Mayor of the City of New York, Bill Lynch has more than 30 years experience in local and national politics, government operations and public policy. In 1997, former President William J. Clinton nominated Mr. Lynch for the position of Vice Chair to the Democratic National Committee.

Prior to Mr. Lynch's appointment as the Deputy Mayor for Intergovernmental Affairs in 1989, he served as Campaign Manager for David Dinkins '89 and as Chief of Staff to the then Manhattan Borough President. Bill Lynch has been a social and political activist for the past twenty-five years, serving as Director of Legislation and Political Action for District Council 1701 of the American Federation of State and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO), as well as Campaign Manager for Congressman MAJOR OWENS and Assemblyman William Frank Boyland both of Brooklyn, New York.

Mr. Lynch will lead a national effort to motivate and deliver key Democratic Party constituent groups, particularly African Americans and Latinos that have been marginalized in the past. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. William Lynch on his recent appointment as the Deputy Campaign Manager for the Kerry-Edwards Presidential Campaign and wish him all the success.

I commend to my colleagues the following article, which appeared in the New York Daily News on July 20, 2004.

[From the Daily News, July 20, 2004]

DEMS' NEW CAPTAIN

(By Errol Louis)

On a quiet, isolated farm in Tennessee, a few hundred political leaders gathered Sunday to honor two New Yorkers—Len Riggio, the Brooklyn-born chairman of Barnes & Noble, and former Deputy Mayor Bill Lynch—in a ceremony that symbolizes a pivotal moment in the race for President. Newly named to the post of deputy manager of the Kerry-Edwards campaign, Lynch will help lead a national effort to fire up and deliver many of the Democratic Party's key constituent groups. That includes women, gays, young adults, blacks, Latinos and union members, especially in the swing states—all in the 104-day sprint between now and Election Day.

Should Lynch succeed, the ticket stands a good chance of winning. But if he comes up even a little bit short in key states like Ohio, Pennsylvania or Florida, it could cost the Democrats the election.

Given the importance of his mission, it's fitting that Lynch was back at the Haley Farm Freedom School, a 157-acre spread outside Knoxville, over the weekend. There he joined a cross section of the Democratic Party's elite, including David Dinkins and Elizabeth Edwards, the wife of the vice presidential candidate, at the dedication of the Riggio-Lynch Chapel, a building paid for by the bookstore magnate and designed by renowned architect Maya Lin (of Vietnam memorial fame).

The farm, formerly owned by the writer Alex Haley, was acquired a decade ago by the Children's Defense Fund and transformed into a thriving conference and training center for veterans of the civil rights movement and their younger, modern successors. Over the last 10 years, more than 6,000 young people have passed through the Haley farm for retreat-like workshops on everything from writing policy papers to studying how civil disobedience works.

College-age activists, many with dreadlocks and tattoos, regularly sit and swap stories with movement veterans who put their bodies on the line in places like Selma, Birmingham and the Mississippi Delta. The same kids are the secret weapon that could carry the election.

Lynch, a former union organizer who did his share of sit-ins before turning to electoral politics, is expected to tap into this army of well-trained young activists and bring their farm-stoked energy into the Kerry-Edwards campaign.

The challenge for Lynch will be to persuade party bigwigs that in many communities, no amount of expensive advertising, fancy Internet networking or televised debating can replace doorknocking, phone-banking and other kinds of grass-roots organizing.

It's a debate that goes on in every Democratic campaign. All too often, fancy media strategists win the debate and grab most of the campaign funds—and then lose the election.

It doesn't have to turn out that way. The troops who could win the fall election have been training quietly for more than a decade on that quiet farm outside Knoxville. If Lynch succeeds at bringing them into a Democratic win, it will look like a 100-day electoral miracle.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO ESTABLISH A BORDER PATROL UNIT FOR THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish at least one Border Patrol unit for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

With over 175 miles of unprotected and open borders, the Virgin Islands are the gateway to the U.S. and our nation's southernmost border. And, it would appear, Mr. Speaker that the U.S. Virgin Islands is today the gateway of choice for human smugglers.

Since 1998 more than 500 Chinese nationals have entered the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Those dropping the aliens ashore have identified the Virgin Islands as an area from which illegals can try to travel undetected to the U.S. mainland. While most of these

landings have principally been during the pre-dawn hours at one of the several cays on the island of St. John, there have also been landings on all three islands with 15 Chinese nationals being apprehended on St. John and St. Thomas as recently as this past April 19th. According to the U.S. Attorney for the Virgin Islands, "we don't know who these people are who are smuggled into the territory from China."

Because of the lack of a Border Patrol Unit in the territory, other federal agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have to spend a significant amount of man-hours apprehending, processing, detaining and watching aliens in custody. ICE has to use between 6 and 8 agents in every landing of 12 to 15 aliens. At a rate of on average 3 to 4 landings per month more than 80 hours are spent processing these aliens. Time which could be used to investigate conspiracies, smuggling organizations and dismantling rings.

Mr. Speaker, having a Border Patrol Unit assigned in the territory would also enable us to deal with the other serious problem we face which is drug smuggling. ICE has identified several trafficking organizations that use the U.S. Virgin Islands to conduct drug smuggling operations, with marijuana, cocaine and heroin being shipped to the territory on a weekly basis.

We also know Mr. Speaker, of the very real connection and relationship between drugs and terrorism: One third of listed terrorist organizations are involved in drug trafficking; according to published reports Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden financed the development of a highly addictive liquid heroin as part of their multi-pronged terrorists campaign to destabilize western society; and according to a UN report, "Funds used from the production and trading of opium and heroin are used to buy arms and other war materials and to finance the training of terrorists and support the operations of extremist."

Mr. Speaker, it is a proven fact that it's more beneficial to stop undocumented aliens and contraband before it enters the United States, rather than attempt to catch everything after it has already entered. Having a Border Patrol in the Virgin Islands will increase exponentially the ability of our country to intercept the next potentially dangerous terrorist before he or she reaches our shores or the drugs that could be used the finance another 9/11 type operation. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVISED
INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today, along with JAN SCHAKOWSKY, I am introducing a revised International Consumer Protection Act of 2004.

This revision reflects changes agreed in negotiations among a number of Federal agencies including the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice to settle questions of inter-agency cooperation.

The changes from the Committee Reported bill are as follows:

LIST OF CHANGES FROM H.R. 3143 AS
INTRODUCED

S. 1234, §1: Includes statements of findings and purpose.

S. 1234, §4(b) (adding FTC Act, 6(j)(3)): Requires FTC to consider the U.S. public interest as a whole, not only consumers' interest, in determining whether to provide investigative assistance to a foreign agency.

S. 1234, §4(b) (adding FTC Act, §6(j)(4)): Clarifies State Department oversight of the development of international agreements.

S. 1234, §4(b) (adding FTC Act, §6(j)(6)); also 4(d): Excludes investigative assistance to a foreign law enforcement agency in matters targeting a bank, savings and loan institution, federal credit union, or common carriers.

S. 1234, §4(b) (adding FTC Act, §6(j)(7)); also §6(a) (amending FTC Act, §21(b)(6)): Ensures no support given to countries on Secretary of State's "terrorism list."

S. 1234, §5: Clarifies and simplifies provision on FTC's cooperation with DOJ regarding foreign litigation.

S. 1234, §6(a) (amending FTC Act, §21(b)(6)): Provides the appropriate Federal banking agency or NCUA with a right of prior approval before FTC provides a foreign agency with materials obtained under compulsory process for a matter targeting a bank, savings and loan institution, or Federal credit union.

S. 1234, §6(b) (amending FTC Act, §21(f)): Makes the section more parallel to SEC provision and eliminates a reference in existing FTC Act to "exemption" from FOIA; does not alter the scope of the FTC's current ability to protect domestic information from disclosure.

S. 1234, §7(a) (adding FTC Act, §21A(b)): Tracks more closely the language of RFPA and ECPA for orders under those laws delaying notice or prohibiting disclosure, for a limited time, of an FTC request for information, because of anticipated adverse results. Clarifies that a court has discretion whether to issue such an order. Makes use of terms consistent throughout the section.

S. 1234, §7(a) (adding FTC Act, §21A(c)): Clarifies provision authorizing the FTC to seek a court order prohibiting disclosure of an FTC request for information in an appropriate case and for a limited time: applies only when neither RFPA nor ECPA requires notice. Does not apply to investigative targets or disclosures to Federal agencies.

S. 1234, §7(a) (adding FTC Act, §21A(d)): Clarifies that protection from legal liability for not disclosing an FTC request applies only if neither RFPA nor ECPA requires notice of the request, and does not apply to an obligation to notify a Federal agency of the request.

S. 1234, §7(a) (adding FTC Act, §21A(g)): Restructures the list of adverse results, but retains the same items.

S. 1234, §8 (adding FTC Act, §§21B(a) and (c)): Clarifies protection from liability for voluntary provision of information to the FTC. Precludes protection for a failure to meet any notice obligation to a Federal agency.

S. 1234, §8 (adding FTC Act, §21 B(b)): Narrows protection from liability for voluntary disclosures by financial institutions to the FTC of possible law violations, in accordance with existing law, 31 U.S.C. 5318(g)(3); clarifies that the protection reaches disclosures related to implicated assets and suspicious chargeback information.

S. 1234, §8 (adding FTC Act, §21B(d)): Clarifies that a domain name registrar or registry is eligible for the protection only in its capacity as such, not in any other business it may conduct.

S. 1234, §9 (adding FTC Act, §25A): States expressly that foreign participants in staff

exchanges become employees of the FTC subject to the same ethics standards as other employees. Corrects the citations to appointing authorities.

S. 1234, §11: Provides an overall savings clause for existing authority.

S. 1234, §13(9): Requires report to Congress on FTC litigation brought in foreign courts.

A TRIBUTE TO RONALD E. JONES

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fine Virginian, Ronald E. Jones, who has served our state and community as a teacher, a committed volunteer, a good Democrat and a fine family man.

Ronald E. Jones was born in Richlands, Virginia and has devoted his life to educating the children of Russell and Buchanan Counties. Mr. Jones was a music teacher and taught not only music but lessons about life. In addition to his duties as a teacher, Mr. Jones devoted countless hours to his students and community as Band Director for Lebanon High School, Cleveland Middle School and Council High School. Many fine musicians in our part of Virginia studied with Mr. Jones and his work has touched the lives of each of his students.

Mr. Jones is also an active member of his community. He has been a Mason, a member of the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, and a member of the Virginia Jaycees where he still serves as an "Exhausted Rooster" with that organization. Mr. Jones has also utilized his musical skills to honor our nation's heroes and as a bugler has played Taps at military funerals across Southwest Virginia. He is honored that the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia recognized his service by naming him a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

In addition to his community and musical endeavors, Mr. Jones has also served his community in both the governmental and political arena. He served the Town of Lebanon as a Councilman and as Vice Mayor. A proud Democrat, he served on the Russell County Democratic Party nominating committee for many years and is a life long member of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Jones is a valued and cherished member of his community. I am glad that this body can recognize his service today and thank him, his wife of almost 40 years Bonnie Sue, and his son Bradley E. Jones, for the service that he has provided to my area of Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO EDGAR UIHLEIN

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Edgar Uihlein of Northbrook, Illinois.

I first got to know Ed Uihlein when I was running for Congress for the first time in 1969. Ed encouraged me just as he has helped other conservative candidates and organizations, including the Leadership Institute.

Ed is a man of extraordinary character. He has worked by the sweat of his brow, and he has worked by the labor of his mind. He has taken care of his own, and he has fought for what was right. Ed has a spirit of adventure and courage. On an impulse, he played hooky from Princeton for a full year while he joined his father on a round-the-world tour in 1936. Ed was in the Navy in World War II, and he took care of his men. When the ship's refrigerator broke down during a long stay in a foreign port, and the crew had no fresh food for a week, he disappeared for half the day, only to return with a barrow full of fresh fish that he himself had caught. The whole ship feasted and the next day the coast where he had fished was full of American sailors trying their luck.

Ed married his sweetheart Lucia in 1941, and built his family with love and care. Today, his five children have fond memories of their parents standing beside their beds, singing duets as they tucked them in. Every morning, Ed drove the children to school, and along the way he would sing to them. As the children got older, Ed would take turns reading books aloud in the evenings, and around the dinner table he would talk politics. They could see his concern, and they came to share it. In 1956, he paid his kids a penny an envelope to address, stamp and seal letters of concern that were sent to every Member of Congress with regard to the heroes of the Hungarian Uprising. Today, their five children and ten grandchildren are productive, patriotic citizens scattered around the country—but, I am happy to say, two of his sons are still living in Illinois.

Ed has made significant financial contributions to individuals, to the arts, and to charities both large and small, many of which are marked "anonymous". I once asked his family for a photograph of him and they did not have one. Ed isn't the kind of man who would sit for a portrait photo. That modesty is another facet of his distinction as an individual.

Ed, you're a great American. I am honored to call you friend.

RECOGNIZING THE CHARITABLE
GOOD WORKS OF THE OCEAN-
SIDE ELKS LODGE #1561

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75 years of good works and charity of the Oceanside Elks Lodge #1561. On May 31, 1929, the Oceanside Elks Lodge became a reality in the Palomar Theater building in Oceanside, California, with 129 charter members.

The first business meeting took place on June 28, 1929. Since that time, the Lodge has held meetings in three different locations ending in their current facility at 444 Country Club Lane in downtown Oceanside.

The motto, "Elks Care and Elks Share," is well established in the order of Elks, and the Oceanside Lodge has been one of the leaders in monies donated to worthy causes since its beginning. Over the last 15 years, the Oceanside Lodge has donated over \$482,624 to charitable causes, such as direct student scholarships, VA Hospitals, the American

Heart Association, youth groups and a host of other local charities.

The Elks National Order has donated in excess of \$3 billion to charity during its 137 years, second only to the United States Government in total donations.

When founded in 1868, the Elks Lodge was a fraternal organization. However, the Oceanside Lodge is proud to recognize Donna Stewart as their first female Elk and Claudia Dineen as their first female Exalted Ruler.

Their Current Exalted Ruler, Robert F. Neal, is a long-time, respected member of the community and is working to increase the charitable contributions to even greater heights.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is vital that we in Congress recognize the 187 years of service and charitable good works of the Elks Lodge and the 75 years of generosity of the Oceanside Elks Lodge #1561 to their local community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. HAROLD
KATNER

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has selflessly served his community for many years. Since the very beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic—more than 20 years ago—Dr. Harold Katner has been a leader in Middle Georgia's fight against AIDS. Through education, research, and treatment, Dr. Katner has spent the bulk of his career working to help the victims of this disease.

When HIV/AIDS was first discovered, public fear of the disease was intense and its victims were often loathed and shunned. Recognizing the need to quell the public's fears, Dr. Katner realized that educating a skeptical public would be crucial in the fight against AIDS. He resolved to educate Middle Georgians whenever and wherever he could. Still today, Dr. Katner educates students of all levels—middle school, medical school, high school, college, as well as medical professionals. And his teaching efforts have not been limited to Mercer University or even to Georgia. Dr. Katner has given international presentations and has been recognized by various national organizations and international entities. One of his colleagues put it best: "He gives AIDS presentations everywhere and anywhere, speaking to any group that invites him to talk" about this devastating medical and social issue.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his efforts to educate the public, Dr. Katner has also treated AIDS patients from the beginning. As a pioneer in the early 1980's, he was the only physician in the City of Macon who would treat AIDS patients. Treating a disease that disproportionately affects those in poverty is a special challenge because many of its victims cannot afford treatment, and understanding the financial difficulties facing many patients, Dr. Katner offered medical care without concern for remuneration. To this day, much of the treatment and education he offers is to those in poverty, particularly to the younger, more vulnerable members of society. For his work with patients, Dr. Katner has been recognized by the American Medical Association

and Mercer University named him Attendant of the Year five times in 10 years.

Dr. Katner's research efforts have been prolific, as well. He has published his research extensively and has presented his work to help educate his peers, as well as the general public. His credentials are considerable, and yet he is remains a caring, humble physician, dedicated to his patients in true homage to the Hippocratic Oath.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Katner's efforts in fighting against the AIDS epidemic—through research, treatment, education—have truly been those of a hero. Today, I hope that Middle Georgia and the country will join me in thanking this public servant, in the truest sense, for his tremendous efforts to help both the victims of AIDS and stop the spread of this epidemic.

PROTECTS ACT OF 2004

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join Rep. JAMES OBERSTAR (Minn) in introducing the Protecting Railroad Operators, Travelers, Employees, and Communities with Transportation Security Act of 2004 (PROTECTS Act). The bill authorizes nearly \$1.3 billion to provide better railroad security and response to terrorist attacks.

The federal government is spending \$4.4 billion this year on aviation security, but it's spending only \$65 million on rail security, even though five times as many people take trains as planes every day.

The bill authorizes \$500 million to be appropriated for freight and passenger rail security improvements, a total of \$597 million for Amtrak's fire and life-safety improvements, \$65 million for system-wide Amtrak security upgrades, and a total of \$100 million for rail research and development. It also provides for improved training and equipment for railroad employees and local emergency personnel to better respond to terrorist incidents.

Increased funding for rail security is something this country desperately needs, particularly in light of the terrible metro rail tragedy in Madrid. The nation's rail infrastructure has been treated like the stepchild of the overall transportation system. It is finally time we dedicate our resources to providing rail security for our nation's citizens.

After September 11th we started spending money like crazy on security, but I'm not sure we are getting our money's worth out of many of the programs we developed. That's why it is so important that we tailor a security program that truly meets the needs of our rail lines and passengers. The security measures we put in place for Aviation will not work for Rail. We need to learn from the mistakes that were made in developing aviation security, and apply what we learned in developing a rail security program.

But we can't keep treating our rail infrastructure as a second class citizen. We have dedicated billions of dollars to the airline industry, and created a grant program for the nation's ports, but have done little to invest in the security upgrades our rail infrastructure needs.

We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I know that everyone in Washington is dedicated to protecting our railways from attack.

No security is fail-proof, but working together we can create a rail security program that protects passengers and keeps the trains running on time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on Monday, July 19, 2004 due to official business. If I was present for rollcall votes for the following bills: 391 on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1587—To promote freedom and democracy in Viet Nam; 392 on motion to suspend the rules and agree, S. Con. Res. 114—“Concerning the importance of the distribution of food in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world”; 393 on motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2264—The Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act, I would have voted “yea” to all of these bills.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRUCE MIMS
UPON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER
38 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to express and convey congratulations to Mr. Bruce Mims, my longtime friend and professional associate on the occasion of his retirement from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Mr. Mims started work in Public Health at a time when very few African Americans were engaged in this profession. It was also a very exciting time in that the Voting Rights Act had been passed, the war on poverty program was being implemented, health problems, needs and issues were being identified in a big way and Bruce was a young, energetic and willing participant.

I first knew Bruce as Executive Director of the Mid-South Health Planning Organization, a Sub-B Agency of the comprehensive Health Planning Agency. The Agency was a sister to the Westside Health Planning Organization, an agency that I ran. When the law for our agencies sunset, Bruce went to work for the Illinois Department of Public Health, where he became one of the foremost Public Health experts in the country and remained there until his retirement.

It has been a pleasure knowing and working with Bruce for all of these years. I congratulate him on his outstanding contributions and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

RECALLING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TRAGIC AND INFAMOUS
INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall a tragic and in-

famous event, the 30th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus. As part of a two stage offensive, Turkish troops forcefully seized approximately one-third of the island nation of Cyprus. This abominable act of violence against the people of Cyprus has never been undone. To this day, Turkish troops occupy Cyprus, splitting the nation into two areas.

Since 1974, the nation has been divided, but progress is being made toward the reunification of Cyprus. In late April, the people of Cyprus went to the polls to vote on a plan of reunification. Unfortunately, this reunification proposal was rushed to coincide with the ascension of Cyprus into the European Union. Citing many issues of concern, including security, approximately 75 percent of Greek Cypriots opposed the plan.

In the end, it was too much to ask that concerns that have been unresolved for 30 years be effectively settled in a process that lasted less than 3 months. However, one failure must not be the end of attempts to reunify the island. A lasting and equitable solution for the people of Cyprus, and the goal of a united Cyprus, is too important to abandon, now or ever. The goal of the process must be to attain a just and lasting solution, not a rushed solution. I remain committed to achieving a solution to this problem so that we never have to gather again to commemorate an anniversary of this hostile and unjustifiable invasion.

The people of Cyprus have suffered from the division of their nation for 30 years. Mr. Speaker, I pray that this will be the last year of a divided Cyprus. I sincerely hope that 30 years after the nation of Cyprus was torn asunder, all Cypriots can be reunited, living in peace and freedom forever.

EXPAND ACCESS TO MEDICINE
FROM ABROAD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, although the pharmaceutical industry and the supporters of the Republican prescription drug plan may disagree, Americans have a right to affordable medicine! That is why so many continue to ask Congress to take action, such as allowing the importation of safe prescription drugs from abroad.

The residents of Calexico, El Centro, San Ysidro, Chula Vista and other border communities join in that call, but in the meantime many are already going to Mexico to buy up to a 90-day supply of prescription drugs for personal use.

They purchase medicines in Mexico because the pharmaceutical companies continue to gouge them at home.

Yet the Senate's Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act, which takes the important step of permitting importation from Canada and Europe, would reduce the 90-day cap on personal use medicine from Mexico to a 14-day supply.

It is inconsistent to increase access to Canadian and European prescription drugs while decreasing access to safe medicine from Mexico. It is unfair to low-income seniors who rely

on these life-enhancing—and often life-saving—medications.

The supporters of the bill may have reservations about the safety of medicine from Mexico. This is a valid issue to raise. Yet the FDA has not provided convincing evidence that the importation of inexpensive drugs from Mexico has resulted in health problems. If the authors of the bill were convinced that medicines from Mexico were in fact dangerous, why would they allow even a 14-day supply?

The fact is seniors in my district have found these medicines to be a safe, affordable and accessible alternative to their local pharmacies. That is why I call on my colleagues in the Senate to oppose this legislation as it is currently written and ensure that communities on the U.S-Mexico border have access to affordable drugs.

The availability of inexpensive medicine is such an important issue at the border because many senior citizens and other residents of these communities have low-incomes and no insurance.

The U.S.-Mexico Border Commission reports that if the border region were the Nation's 51st state, it would rank: Last in the percentage of insured residents, last in per capita income, last in access to care, first in unemployed; and first in the number of school children living in poverty.

We must move forward in boosting the health of our border communities and increasing the availability of safe and inexpensive medicines, rather than moving backward and placing new restricts on access to prescription drugs from Mexico.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF TURKEY'S INVASION
OF CYPRUS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thirtieth anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. This anniversary serves as a reminder of three decades of illegal occupation by Turkish military forces of over one-third of Cyprus's territory.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, forcing nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. To this day, in defiance of United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, Turkey maintains more than 30,000 troops in the occupied territory.

The division of Cyprus has gone on for too long. The past year has seen great efforts by the Cypriots, the United States, and the U.N. to develop a plan for reunification. Unfortunately, the U.N. sponsored April 2004 vote on reunification failed to pass.

Cyprus's recent accession to the European Union presents great opportunities to join its European counterparts in strongly supporting human rights and fundamental freedoms. These values should lay the foundation for a final settlement. On this anniversary, I join my colleagues in looking forward to a future where Greek and Turkish Cypriots can once again live in peace on one unified island.

30TH ANNIVERSARY ON TURKEY'S
INVASION OF CYPRUS**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, the world marked the 30th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. And so began three decades of Turkey's illegal military occupation of Cyprus. Even as we speak, Turkey maintains 30,000 heavily armed troops in the occupied portions of Cyprus.

For 30 years, Cyprus has been divided by a green line—a 113 mile barbed wire barrier that runs across the width of the island.

For 30 years, Greek Cypriots have experienced 30 years of ethnic cleansing, forcible evictions, and missing persons. Cyprus has endured 30 years of the flouting of its territorial integrity. This includes the occupation authority's attempt to create an independent "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

The international community has witnessed 30 years of the flagrant violation of U.N. General Assembly resolutions and Security Council decisions calling for immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cyprus, the return of refugees, and respect for the island's sovereignty.

Thirty years is a long time. The occupation of Cyprus has been going on too long. If left to their own wisdom and devices, with firm international support, Greek and Turkish Cypriots could find ways to live in peace and harmony.

The international community can and must play an indispensable role in settling the Cyprus dispute. But, to do this, it must draw the proper conclusions from results of the vote this past April on the reunification plan put forward by the United Nations.

Seventy six percent of the Greek Cypriot electorate opposed the "Annan Plan" because of concerns about security, property restitution, and the structure of the proposed central government, while 65 percent of Turkish Cypriot voters supported it. It is clear from this experience that a workable solution must take the interests and concerns of both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities fully into account.

It is instructive that the split vote has not led to greater tension between the two communities or between Greece and Turkey. During most of the 433 year history of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriots have coexisted peacefully.

With the notable exception of the period that immediately followed Turkish occupation of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriot relations have largely been free of inter-communal violence. The hotly debated referendum itself took place overwhelmingly with an absence of conflict. This shows that despite the differences between them, Greek and Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly share a desire for peace.

The leadership of the Republic of Cyprus seeks a bizonal, bicommunal federation under a plan that promotes the genuine reunification of Cypriots and Cypriot society, while enabling each community to retain its own identity and culture.

Cyprus's admission to the European Union on May 1st of this year may have created a

new opportunity for resolving the division and occupation with an inclusive democratic system in which human rights are fully respected and the fundamental freedoms on which the European Union is founded, are guaranteed.

Taking all of this into account, the U.N. needs to go back to the drawing board. The U.S. needs to remain an honest broker. It must not attempt to impose a solution that the overwhelming majority of Greek-Cypriots reject. To do so will make an ultimate solution and final reunification difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

America must at all times remember that a united, peaceful, and prosperous Cyprus is in our national interest and the interest of world peace. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Cyprus was one of the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States. Cyprus has also been a strong ally in the war against terrorism. We must continue to support our friends, who like us, only seek to live in peace.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
WILLIAM P. KANE**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Brigadier General William P. Kane, who has faithfully served as the commander of the 94th Air Lift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Georgia for the last six years. The 94th Airlift wing is an Air Force Reserve C-130 unit and has a mission to train and equip combat-ready units to deploy on short notice to defend our nation, which I might add, they did on several occasions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, Dobbins serves as the host organization to other tenant organizations, such as Naval Air Station Atlanta and Lockheed Martin, where they manufacture the F/A-22.

With this complex mission, General Kane did an outstanding job and we who reside in Marietta and Northwest Atlanta owe him a great debt of gratitude.

In addition to holding a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology, General Kane is a highly accomplished C-130 pilot, logging over 6,500 flight hours. In addition, General Kane has faithfully served the Air Reserve during his various commands of one squadron, two groups, and now three wings during his distinguished 32-year career.

While General Kane has gone on to take over command of the 302nd Airlift Wing in his hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado, he will be sorely missed in the 11th District of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking Brigadier General Kane for his outstanding and selfless service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CORAL
REEF CONSERVATION AND PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 2004**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, every once in awhile I am deeply grateful for an action I am

able to take that is both long overdue and truly needed. That is how I feel now as I introduce the Coral Reef Conservation and Protection Act of 2004.

My childhood was spent among the rich diversity of the coral reef ecosystems of my native Island of Hawaii. It was a time of budding wonder at what nature had wrought, the living corals and other reef life existing in mutual dependency and sustainability. But just weeks ago, when I returned, as I often do, now with my children, to those same reefs, they're not what they were. Still beautiful, yes; still wondrous. But there is not the same diversity of coral nor the same luster; the fish and other marine life not as plentiful nor diverse; the presence of new, alien species is apparent.

Of course, there are simply more of us in those marine environments than there were, and so our cumulative impact over my 50 years in those waters has become apparent, even at the level of recreational and subsistence use. But it's more, for these reefs have become a significant business, their coral exoskeletons, their living creators, and the shells and fish that live in and among them valuable collectors' items for the aquariums and curio shops of the world. And the purposeful and accidental introduction of marine invasives in isolated instances over the last decades have magnified into a critical mass of statewide presence and threat.

In relevant terms, though, we in Hawaii are among the lucky ones, for at least we still have living, albeit threatened, coral reefs, with declining but at least remaining marine life. At least we have marginally protective state laws, and a culture of arguable sustainability.

But in much of the rest of the marine world, especially throughout the temperate zones of the Pacific and beyond, the world of the coral reef is past endangered and into destroyed, wiped out by a wave of commercial overfishing, overcollecting, dynamiting, cyanide poisoning, and other forms of ecological pillage. In these worlds, laws do not exist to provide even minimum protections or, if they do, they are spurned.

Some say that that's their business; what do we care if they wreck their marine ecosystems? First, of course, in today's interdependent world, our global environment is everyone's business. But beyond that, we can't turn our backs because we are the chief facilitator; ours is the largest market for the products of this stripping of the world's coral reefs.

None of this is new: we have known all of this for decades. We have even set out to do something about it. In 1973, we became a party to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which sought to clamp down on endangered species trafficking. But although some of our world's coral reef life has been designated as covered under it, the enforcement mechanisms are frankly ineffective.

More recently, in 1998 President Clinton issued the Coral Reef Protection Executive Order (#13098) establishing the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. That entity was directed to strengthen our stewardship and conservation of our country's reef ecosystems, and to assess our role in the international coral reef products trade with the goal of taking actions to promote conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs worldwide.

The Task Force conducted its evaluations, made its reports, and outlined what was needed. That was in large part comprehensive legislation to institute common protective standards for our nation's coral reefs, but, equally important, rules to discourage international coral reef abuse and encourage sustainable practices by allowing imports only of non-endangered products collected by sustainable practices and pursuant to integrated management plans.

The Coral Reef Conservation and Protection Act of 2004 I gratefully introduce today embodies the principal directions of the Task Force and more. It establishes a comprehensive scheme for the domestic and international protection of our world's coral reef ecosystems. The regime's key ingredients are the disallowal of any domestic taking, transport in interstate commerce, or import of the endangered marine life of our coral reefs, unless that life is collected in non-destructive ways or subject to sustainable management plans or otherwise exempted from coverage by administrative actions.

Mr. Speaker, we have to start somewhere; our world's coral reefs are crying out for our help. This bill is that start, and I urge its prompt deliberation and passage.

Mahalo, and aloha!

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS—ESTER SILVER-PARKER VICE PRESIDENT OF DIVERSITY FOR WAL-MART STORES, INC.

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished business executive well known to members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Ester Silver-Parker.

She serves on the boards of International Women's Forum, Brenau University, North Carolina Central University, National Public Radio Foundation, The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Wyndham Hotel Women and Diversity Roundtable.

Ester Silver-Parker was named Vice President of Diversity Relations for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in December 2003. She is charged with the strategic planning and execution of Wal-Mart's diverse efforts as it relates to its supplier development program, philanthropic and community relations programs. Additionally, she is responsible for strengthening Wal-Mart's relationships with diversity leaders and leadership organizations in the communities it serves.

Prior to joining Wal-Mart, Ms. Silver-Parker served as Vice President of Corporate Affairs and President of the AT&T Foundation for AT&T. She also directed AT&T's National Constituency Relations, Issues Management and Corporate Social Responsibility Programs.

Ms. Silver-Parker directed AT&T's public relations field offices in the Northeast States, the Mid-Atlantic States and the Southeast. She established the first AT&T public relations operations in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, designed and implemented the plan to increase AT&T's presence in the U.S. domestic field operations, and developed the organiza-

tional design for AT&T's field public relations organization. She also established AT&T's first constituent relations organization. She was the recipient of the Catherine Cleary Award, the highest leadership honor AT&T gives to a female employee.

Prior to joining AT&T, Ms. Silver-Parker worked in public relations for New York Telephone, the National Urban League and as a journalist for Essence Magazine, the Review of Political Economy and New World Outlook.

Ester Silver-Parker has traveled on behalf of the Board of Global Ministries in the Congo, Burundi and Kenya to study and write about the health conditions and quality of life of women and children. She is a frequent speaker on issues pertaining to women, diversity, corporate social responsibility, and strategic philanthropy.

She received a Masters in journalism from Columbia University School of Journalism and a Bachelors of Arts in political science from North Carolina Central University. She is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University's Executive Management Program and holds an Honorary Doctor's Degree in Humane Letters from Benedict College.

Ms. Silver-Parker has received numerous awards, including the Ebony Magazine Outstanding Women in Corporate Marketing, the Congressional Black Caucus Unsung Hero Award, the DECA Award for outstanding businesswoman, the Harlem YMCA Black Achievers in Industry Award, New York City Gus D'Amato Community Service Award, the Atlanta Business League's Outstanding Corporate Person Award, the 100 Black Men of America's Corporate Excellence Award, the National AIDS Fund's Leadership Award, the Asian Pacific Islanders Women's Leadership Starfish Award.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Silver-Parker is a genuine professional who cares deeply about her community. I am honored to recognize her as a "Point of Light for All Americans."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 21, I was meeting with constituents and unavoidably missed rollcall votes 402 and 403. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 402, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 403.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, as bloated corpses floated down Rwanda's rivers, the international community debated whether the atrocities being committed in Rwanda fit the definition of "genocide." By the time the world stopped debating, it was too late. Millions of men, women and

children had been killed. The failure of the world to act in Rwanda remains a stain on our collective conscience.

We must learn from the tragic mistakes of the past. Today, one thousand miles north of Rwanda, in the Darfur region of Sudan, more than 30,000 people have already been killed by the Sudanese military's aerial bombardments and the atrocities being committed by their ruthless proxies, the Jangaweed militia. Gang rapes, the branding of raped women, amputations, and summary killings are widespread. More than a million people have been driven from their homes as villages have been burned and crops destroyed. The Sudanese government has deliberately blocked the delivery of food, medicine and other humanitarian assistance. More than 160,000 Darfurians have become refugees in neighboring Chad. Conditions are ripe for the spread of fatal diseases such as measles, cholera, dysentery, meningitis and malaria. The U.S. Agency for International Development estimates that 350,000 people are likely to die in the coming months and that the death toll could reach more than a million unless the violence stops and the Sudanese government immediately grants international aid groups better access to Darfur.

Here in Washington and at the United Nations headquarters in New York, many officials are again debating whether this unfolding tragedy constitutes genocide, ethnic cleansing or something else. This time let us not debate until it is too late to stop this human catastrophe. Let us not wait until thousands more children are killed before we summon the will to stop this horror. America and the international community have a moral duty to act. The United States and the 130 other signatories to the Genocide Convention also have a legal obligation to "undertake to prevent and punish" the crime of genocide.

The Convention defines genocide as actions undertaken "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such." The actions include "deliberately inflicting on members of the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." By all accounts, including the reports of U.N. fact finders, it is the African peoples in the Darfur region who have been targeted for destruction by the Khartoum-backed Arab death squads.

In the middle of an unfolding crisis like that in Darfur, there will always be debate over whether what is happening constitutes genocide. But it is important to remember that the Genocide Convention does not require absolute proof of genocidal intentions before the international community is empowered to intervene. The Convention would offer no protection to innocent victims if we had to wait until there were tens of thousands more corpses before we act. A key part of the Genocide Convention is prevention, not just punishment after the fact.

The United States has already done more than any other nation to call attention to and respond to this tragedy. But our efforts to date have not brought an end to the growing crisis. We must take additional measures now.

The United States should immediately call for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council and introduce and call for a vote on a resolution that demands that the Government of Sudan take the following steps: First, allow international relief groups and human rights

groups free and secure access to the Darfur region, including access to the camps where thousands are huddled in wretched conditions; Second, the Government of Sudan must immediately terminate its support for the Janjaweed and dispatch its forces to disarm them. Third, the Sudanese government must allow the more than one million displaced persons to return home. The resolution must include stiff sanctions if the Sudanese government refuses to meet these conditions and it must authorize the deployment of peacekeeping forces to Darfur to protect civilians and individuals from CARE and other humanitarian organizations seeking to provide humanitarian assistance.

It is critical that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan exhibit strong leadership on Darfur. Mukesh Kapila, until recently the top U.N. official in Sudan has been outspoken in sounding the alarm. I am encouraged that the Secretary General visited Sudan. However, the result of his visit must be more than an expression of concern. Secretary General Annan must make it clear that if the Sudanese government does not cooperate fully in stopping the killings and destruction, he will push for immediate international sanctions. He must let the Sudanese government know that the welcome progress made in reaching an accommodation with the South will not prevent the world from taking action to stop the horror in Darfur. The U.N. ignored warnings of mass murder a decade ago in Rwanda; it must not stand by again.

We should not allow other members of the U.N. Security Council to engage in endless negotiations and delay a vote on the resolution. In this case, every day that goes by without action means more lives lost. Let's vote on the resolution. If the rest of the world refuses to authorize collective action, shame on them. Failure to pass such a resolution would not represent a failure of American leadership; it would be a terrible blot on the world's conscience.

Whether or not the United Nations acts, the United States should take steps on its own. We should make it clear that if the Sudanese

government does not meet the demands in the proposed resolution, the United States will impose travel restrictions on Sudanese officials and move to freeze their assets. Even apart from U.N. action, we can immediately urge other nations to join us in taking these and other measures.

I commend Secretary of State Colin Powell for his visit to the Darfur region. It is critical, however, that the Secretary's visit do more than simply call attention to the tragedy unfolding there. The United States must make it clear that the failure of Khartoum to fully cooperate in ending the destruction and killings will result in a concerted American effort to punish the Sudanese government and harness international support to intervene in Darfur.

We must not look back on Darfur ten years from now and decry the fact that the world failed to act to stop the crime of genocide. Rwanda and other genocides should have taught us that those who knowingly fail to confront such evil are themselves complicit through inaction. We are all god's children. These are crimes against humanity. Let us respond to this unfolding human disaster with the urgency that it demands.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY
OF WARSAW UPRISING DURING
WORLD WAR II

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as the House of Representatives adjourns for the next six weeks, I am proud to rise on behalf of more than 111,000 of my constituents who are of Polish descent in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois on Chicago's northwest side. It is my privilege to join with friends of Poland and people of Polish descent around the world who will join together to commemorate the Warsaw Uprising.

On their behalf, it is my honor to have introduced H. Con. Res. 470, recognizing the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising during World War II. It was 60 years ago this August when ordinary Polish citizens, fighting against overwhelming odds and extreme hardships, took up arms against their German oppressors.

Counting on Allied forces to assist in the impending liberation of Warsaw, the Underground Home Army launched its attack against German forces in an attempt to win back their country. Heavily outnumbered and armed mostly with homemade weapons, the Polish resistance fought bravely and heroically for 63 days.

On the verge of victory but with Allied forces still far from the scene, their fates were sealed when the Germans reinforcements arrived. Ultimately, 250,000 civilians and troops were killed and in the wake of the uprising's outcome, centuries-old buildings, monuments and cultural treasures were systematically destroyed by the Germans.

To this day, the courage and valor demonstrated by the Polish resistance stands as a symbol to the spirit of the Polish people and remains a shining example of the world's greatest challenges to fascism and oppression. Polish citizens can be proud of the men and women who fought in this landmark chapter of Poland's resistance, and proud of their resolve and belief in freedom.

Today, this resolution serves another purpose. It reaffirms the special relationship between United States and Poland and the unwavering bond that exists among our two peoples. I offer this resolution as a symbol of gratitude for Poland's friendship and for standing shoulder to shoulder with our troops in Iraq and where the global war against terror is waged.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation shares and appreciates Poland's values and democratic ideals of liberty and human rights. The same indomitable spirit that was alive 60 years ago remains strong in the Polish consciousness today.