

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARIE
MACHELL MILLIKEN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today with the greatest sadness. When unexpected tragedies occur to exemplary individuals, it is a blow to the community as a whole. One such tragedy cost the life of an individual from my home district, Marie Machell Milliken. She was killed on Highway 84 near Telluride in a car accident. Her husband of 52 years was with her at the time and survived the accident.

Mrs. Milliken was born November 21, 1926, in Barre, Vermont. She met her husband while attending college at Yale University. Mrs. Milliken was a professor of nursing, vice president of academic affairs at Loretto Heights College and the director of nursing at Regis University. She received the Distinguished Alumna Award for the class of 1951. She also attended and matriculated from Colby College and the University of Denver.

She is survived by her husband Gordon, their children Doug, Karen, David, Anne and one grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with the Milliken family, Marie will be deeply missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAL
ROSSELLI, LABOR LEADER OF
THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sal Roselli, a friend of mine and a good friend to working people throughout the Nation, who will receive the honored title of Labor Leader of the Year in Contra Costa County, California by the AFL-CIO, on September 17, 2004. Sal is receiving this honor in recognition of the contributions he has made to bring high quality health care to all Americans.

Sal is the President of the Service Employees International Union Local 250, AFL-CIO. Since he became President in 1988 that Union has become the fastest growing health care union in the Nation, having seen its membership rise from 25,000 to 100,000. During this time his union has established new standards on wages, benefits and quality of care issues through the collective bargaining process. SEIU Local 250 has played a leading role in advancing social justice issues such as immigrant rights, health care access, peace and affirmative action.

Sal's commitment to working people began in the late 1960's when he worked with Doro-

thy Day of the Catholic Worker's Movement, followed by a year of community organizing with VISTA. He moved to the Bay Area in the early 1970's, and by 1984 he was president of the Alice B Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, which grew to be the largest in the country.

As a national vice-president of SEIU, Sal has helped bring a new sense of urgency within the labor movement to address one of our Nation's greatest shames—the lack of health insurance coverage for 45 million people. His union's 100,000 health care members are committed to bringing quality health care to every American.

I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting Sal Roselli in recognition of his service to America's health care needs.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF WALTER JOHNSON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to a distinguished labor leader, a great San Franciscan, and a dear friend, Walter Johnson, upon his retirement. I join with my constituents to express our appreciation to Walter Johnson for 50 years of extraordinary service to the labor community and to the people of San Francisco. We are all fortunate that Walter chose to live in San Francisco and bestow upon us his immeasurable talents and contributions. He has devoted his life to fighting for equal rights in the workplace and social justice for all San Franciscans. He believes deeply in the dignity of all people and the freedoms of our democracy.

Born on April 22, 1924, in Amenia, North Dakota, Walter arrived in San Francisco following three years of service in the United States Army during World War 11. He joined the Department Store Employees Union Local 1100, was elected President in 1958, and in 1964 was elected to his local's top position of Executive Officer. Under Walter's leadership, the rights of women, people of color, and lesbians and gays working in retail were protected and preserved. His expert guidance resulted in his subsequent reelection over the next eleven years.

Walter was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council in 1985, and since that time has fought to secure and protect individual workers' rights. As a frontline leader, Walter Johnson has led the fight for workers' benefits, healthcare reform, workplace equality, and union rights. Walter educated, enlightened and mobilized union members to correct the unjust and unfair practices that existed in the workplace. Walter developed and maintained strong personal ties with his numerous co-workers and union members, and has remained their loyal friend.

Walter's friendships extend far beyond the labor community to the homeless man on the

street, the man in the corner store, and innumerable others throughout the Bay Area and beyond. His friends have been blessed with his generous nature, his wry sense of humor, and his penchant for story telling. He is rarely without a personal anecdote or a footnote from history, which he often recalls in perfect iambic pentameter and rhyme. His boundless energy and enthusiasm is contagious.

Walter has given so much of himself to the labor movement and to the people of San Francisco, that we must thank his wife Jane and his children Eric, Lawrence and Mary, for sharing him with us. We honor him today for his courage, his leadership, and his wonderful friendship.

TRIBUTE TO ISABEL SANFORD

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and acknowledge the great accomplishments of a talented actress, Isabel Sanford, who passed away on July 9, 2004.

Ms. Sanford and Sherman Hemsley co-starred as Louise and George Jefferson in the sitcom *The Jeffersons*. Isabel Sanford was also known affectionately to many as "Weezy" Jefferson. She was a native New Yorker and performed at the world famous Apollo Theater in her youth. Ms. Sanford made her film debut in the historic *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

The *Jeffersons* was one of the first television sitcoms to showcase the black family on national television. The *Jeffersons* moved on up from being the neighbors across the street from Archie Bunker, and moved into a skyscraper in New York City. She, along with Sherman Hemsley, changed the way America looked at African Americans; breaking down barriers and eliminating stereotypes. Ms. Sanford was the first black woman to receive an Emmy for Best Actress in a comedy series for her work on *The Jeffersons*.

Ms. Sanford's legacy will live on through her movies and her television but most of all her family and her fans. She will be greatly missed.

EARMARK REGIONAL ASSETS FOR
MIDEAST PEACE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the Members of the House a newspaper article written by my constituent, Steven R. Rivkin, which was originally published on the Financial Times website on June 4th 2004. This piece offers some interesting, pragmatic and innovative views on how

• 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.

the natural resources in the Middle East can be used to help advance President Bush's stalled Greater Middle East Initiative.

[From the Financial Times, June 4, 2004]
 EARMARK REGIONAL ASSETS FOR MIDEAST PEACE

(By Steven R. Rivkin)

Palestinian and Israeli claims for lost properties unsettled for more than five decades can still be remedied through sufficient compensation.

That's what an American friend of mine received after the US Army pulled a truck up to his idyllic New Mexico home early in the second world war and removed his family so the property could be used as a weapons development laboratory. His parents got a monthly cheque, enabling him to become well educated, live a comfortable life, and make worthy contributions to the US.

And that's precisely the type of assurance for individual Palestinians that Jordan's King Abdullah II has now asked of the White House, once President George W. Bush acquiesced when Ariel Sharon ruled out a "Right of Return" to the Israeli heartland.

There's a simple, just, and pragmatic way to launch compensation that the Middle East "peace process" has yet to appreciate: Recognise that there are rich regional resources lying fallow since the break-up of mandatory Palestine that could be earmarked to settle outstanding claims.

Clearly delineated stakes in the region's strategic wealth could be pledged up front as collateral for individual recoveries. This would ease qualms over whether reparations would ever be paid and promote confidence that other impediments to peace can fairly be resolved too.

A lot of economic value resides in at least three regional advantages untapped since 1948:

Trans-Israel transport of goods and commodities to and from Jordan and beyond. Transit via Israel's ports and networks of roads and rail (themselves legacies from the Mandate) could expand mineral production (potash and phosphates) in the Arab hinterland and trigger significant economic growth in the desert kingdom. An Israeli "land bridge to Jordan" would set off significant efficiencies in world commerce, by passing the Suez Canal.

What is more, the British built a petroleum pipeline in the 1930s from Mosul, Iraq, to the Mediterranean at Haifa, which has not functioned since Israel's independence. If restored now, this pipeline could provide critically needed, added security for exporting Iraqi oil to western markets.

A large natural gas field recently discovered in the Mediterranean off Gaza, Egypt, and Israel could fuel electricity production, habitation, and manufacturing in all three areas and beyond.

In each case, idle resources could be made to earn substantial and growing revenue for owners, investors, and lenders. If claimants for reparations were firmly recognised as equity owners, dividends could be paid to them out of revenue. Were ownership rights "securitised", some owners could "cash out" whenever they decided to sell their equity to third-party investors.

Israel's current control over these assets is of minimal worth until regional co-operation is assured. Yet the real value of these dormant assets can be far greater if they bring a conclusive settlement within reach. So the loss would be merely conjectural, overwhelmingly offset by long-term gains through conciliation and many more economic opportunities that would surely unfold.

For Palestinians, recovery of a productive share in what they could see as their historic

patrimony would be psychologically fitting and a spur to regional stability, offsetting longing for specific properties lost long ago. Israel, Palestine, and their Arab neighbours Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria could all look forward to regional prosperity based on indigenous resources—positioned like my New Mexico friend when he lost his home in 1942, only to find the courage, supported by the means, to live a full and productive life. Israel could consider turning key selected assets over to a third-party trustee—say a corporation chartered and guaranteed by the US or European Union under protocols specifying that individual shares held in the names of eligible claimants will start paying dividends as soon as earnings flow (rather like preferred stock). Once currently unused assets have been earmarked, Israel's neighbours might be much less reluctant to initiate co-operative development projects.

Having moved this one critical grievance up and out of the queue, negotiators could turn to other key issues—borders, Jerusalem, water rights, even limited repatriation whether or not production gets going right away.

If the assets transferred wind up being lucrative, astute international mediation and private entrepreneurship will have removed a prominent barrier to reconciliation that is not only real but innately personal. Then, the natural workings of global capital and commodity markets could, over time, top up the monetary restitution.

This is an issue better taken up immediately rather than left any longer to fester just in time to give new impetus to Mr Bush's stalled "Greater Middle East Initiative."

This writer is a lawyer in Washington, DC. From 1961-65 he worked for the White House Staff & Office of Science & Technology.

LANCASTER AREA SENIOR SERVICES PUT QUALITY FIRST

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important event in my district coming up on Wednesday, September 29, an event I would have been eager to attend but for my duties here in the Capitol on that important session day.

On that day, residents and staff of sixteen not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Communities in my district will gather together for a ceremonial joint signing of a pledge to participate in Quality First, a nationwide, profession-wide effort to "raise the bar" on quality and on achieving a process of continuous improvement.

These sixteen communities, large and small, constitute L.A.S.S., which stands for Lancaster Area Senior Services. Together, they serve more than 10,000 seniors and 7,000 employees and have made a commitment to work together to explore ways to address trends and services that will enhance the quality of life for their residents.

Part of that commitment was the decision to take part in Quality First. All 16 members of L.A.S.S. are also members of PANPHA, their 300+ member state association of nonprofit housing and service providers, and of AAHSA, their national Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. AAHSA launched Quality First in 2002, along with other provider asso-

ciations, to make a commitment to earning public trust and to helping older adults and their families live to their fullest potential. Participation in Quality First is a way to prove to a doubting public, a critical media and a skeptical legislature that the profession is committed to quality and constant quality improvement.

The AAHSA/PANPHA version of Quality First to which the L.A.S.S. members have committed includes 10 Elements of Quality: commitment; governance accountability; leading-edge care and services; community involvement; continuous quality improvement; human resources development; consumer-friendly information; consumer participation; research findings and education; and public trust and consumer confidence.

They in turn are based on seven core principles: continuous quality assurance and quality improvement; public disclosure and accountability; patient/resident and family rights; workforce excellence; public input and community involvement; ethical practices; and financial stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the boards, trustees, and executive staff of the L.A.S.S. communities on their decision to participate in Quality First. As I indicated earlier, it is unfortunate that I cannot attend the commemoration, but I am pleased to be able to mark the event to my colleagues by way of these remarks.

The continuing care retirement communities comprising Lancaster Area Senior Services are: Brethren Village, Calvary Fellowship Homes, Ephrata Manor, Fairmont Homes, Garden Spot Village, Homestead Village, Inc., Landis Homes, Luthercare, Masonic Village, Mennonite Home Communities, Moravian Manor, Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community, Saint Anne's Home, Tel Hai Retirement Community, United Zion Retirement Community, and Willow Valley Retirement Communities.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CAPTIONING INSTITUTE'S QUARTER CENTURY OF ACHIEVEMENT IN CLOSED CAPTIONING AND RELATED MEDIA ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus I am introducing a bipartisan Congressional Resolution to recognize the achievements of the National Captioning Institute (NCI) in providing closed-captioning services and other media access technologies to Americans who are disabled by hearing loss and/or vision loss, or who are limited by their inability to read or master English as a second language. Given that communication delivery systems such as television and, more recently, the Internet, play an absolutely essential role in American society, the proposed Congressional Resolution salutes NCI's quarter century of progressive development in bringing media access technologies to the American people. NCI's stated mission is improving access to communications for all, and this Resolution supports the organization's laudable efforts.

The National Captioning Institute was founded in 1979 as a nonprofit corporation with the mission of ensuring that deaf and hard-of-hearing people have access to television through the technology of closed captioning. Prior to this time, captioned television was offered on an extremely limited basis, and the captions were "open", resembling subtitles, an obtrusive system roundly rejected by broadcasters and audiences alike. NCI pioneered the closed-caption technology in which captions could be accessed through special decoder units. This revolutionary solution made it possible for both hearing and hearing impaired audiences to enjoy television programming at the same time, and made the goal of accessible television a reality. Since the first, nationally broadcast closed captioned television programs appeared in 1980—an event so momentous that it was announced by the White House and made international headlines—tens of millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans have been able to access television for entertainment and news content every day.

With the anniversary of September 11, 2001 this past week, we are reminded of the special importance of captioned television in the case of national emergencies. On that terrible day, NCI's dedicated captioners remained on the air for countless hours over a period of several days, captioning in real time the event and its harrowing aftermath for millions of Americans who, without NCI's work, would not have been able to fully comprehend the attacks and their profound impact.

It is estimated that more than 100 million Americans benefit from captioned programming. These audiences include 28 million people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing; children and adults learning to read; and those learning English as a second language. Hearing and non-hearing audiences are most likely to use closed captioning in their homes, although the system is embedded throughout today's society in public spaces such as bars, gyms and airports. As part of NCI's commitment to providing media access to everyone, NCI is making great advances in the development and application of described video technology, a service that provides an audio description of the visual elements of video programming for people who are blind or have low vision, which is an audience of more than 14 million people.

The span of NCI's perseverance and dedication extends far beyond technology for our televisions. NCI established the Nation's only free consumer help desk for communications access issues where citizens may pose questions on topics such as the availability of captioned programming, how to resolve problems with displaying captions, accessibility of closed captions with digital cable and high definition television, and the availability of closed captions in Spanish and on DVDs and home videos.

In addition to its technologic achievements, NCI recently took the lead on auditing how the entire captioning industry is performing. It commissioned the field's first study to evaluate the quality, availability and use of the Nation's captioning services in order to improve performance throughout the entire captioning industry.

In light of all of the above achievements, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and demonstrate our support for the National Captioning Institute's dedication to improving media access to millions of our fellow Americans.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST AT-TACKS AGAINST RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, Mr. ROYCE, as well as Chairman HYDE and Mr. LANTOS from the International Relations Committee, for bringing this resolution before us today.

In recent weeks the world watched in shock and horror as terrorists brought down two Russian aircraft and detonated a deadly bomb at a Moscow train station. Russia is no stranger to the global war on terror; still the devastation and timing of these attacks were notable and shook the confidence of the Russian people.

But nothing prepared the world for the unspeakable act that was perpetrated in Beslan beginning the morning of September 1. On their way to the celebrate the first day of school, more than 1,100 schoolchildren, parents and teachers were taken hostage by approximately 30 armed terrorists. These innocent men, women and children were inhumanely held with no food or water for more than 52 hours, and their treatment at the hands of these terrorists was savage and cruel.

Tragically, the siege ended in a hail of bullets and series of explosions. In the end more than 355 innocent hostages were killed, including 156 children. Nearly 200 persons still remain unaccounted for amid the rubble of the school.

Let there be no mistake. These were not the actions of rebels or freedom fighters; these were the despicable and abhorrent acts of terrorists. As the Russian people attempt to come to terms with their loss and cope with the anguish inflicted by these loathsome individuals, may they find comfort in knowing they are in the thoughts and prayers of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the heart-wrenching scenes of parents frantically searching for missing children, or mourning the loss of their children have steeled the resolve of the United States to stand with the people of Russia, and rededicate ourselves to rooting out these cowardly terrorists from every corner of the world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BERNADETTE GRAY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that one of my constituents has been given the inaugural Outstanding Caseworker of the Year award. Bernadette Gray's service was crucial in creating collaboration between Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Arapahoe County Human Services.

Through a unanimous decision by the staff members of both organizations, the Outstanding Caseworker of the Year award was

created specifically for Ms. Gray. The award is the first of its kind in the 20-year history of CASA. Collaboration between the two organizations helps both to meet the needs of the families and children that they serve. Bernadette has worked tirelessly on child advocacy cases; building coalitions between volunteers, parents and children to ensure the children are best served and protected.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Bernadette Gray for her valuable work. She has set a new standard in the field of casework and has proved her self to be a valued asset to the county government. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALEX MEHRAN, CORPORATE LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in saluting Alex Mehran, who will be named Corporate Leader of the Year for Contra Costa County at the AFL-CIO's Labor-2-Labor dinner in my congressional district on September 17, 2004. Mr. Mehran earned this honor due to his continued leadership within our community on such issues as housing, transportation and the creation of quality jobs for America's working families.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Sunset Development Company, Alex has built the largest, most diverse business center in the San Francisco Bay region. That development, Bishop Ranch, contains over 350 companies that employ over 30,000 people. In order to provide the housing and transportation choices these employees, and others throughout the region, need, Alex Mehran has provided dynamic leadership on a number of initiatives to address these issues.

As Chairman of the Contra Costa Economic Partnership he has helped to create a unique collaboration of public and private partnerships to promote economic development strategies that support a higher quality of life for the region's residents.

Alex has shown his commitment to making the "American Dream" available to all of our community's residents by creating learning opportunities for immigrant workers at his job sites so they can gain the English skills needed to fully participate in our society.

For our system to truly work, we must have corporate leaders like Alex Mehran who understand our great society's health depends on each of our hard-working residents having the opportunity to enjoy the quality of life we all work so hard to create.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the results of the elections in Hong Kong on September 12

make two things clear: The people of Hong Kong overwhelmingly support the pro-democracy movement, and the Chinese government has created an electoral system intended to ensure that that support cannot be translated into political control.

In the months leading up to the election, the Chinese government engaged in a systematic crackdown to deny the people of Hong Kong the right to choose their own leaders and to suppress freedom of expression. In April, Beijing issued a new "interpretation" of Hong Kong's Basic Law, which serves as the territory's constitution, to prevent direct elections of Hong Kong's next leader in 2007 and for all lawmakers in 2008. As H. Res. 667 concludes, that result is inconsistent with international agreement, and the United States should take a strong position in favor of true democracy in Hong Kong.

The United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 codified the understanding of the United States that Hong Kong would have a degree of autonomy from the People's Republic of China. After reversion, it was expected that this autonomy would be a catalyst for the development in Hong Kong of political institutions and procedures that would reflect the will of the people of Hong Kong, regardless of whether they were consistent with the views of government leaders in Beijing. The PRC, however, has thwarted these efforts at every turn.

Beijing has created a climate of political fear in Hong Kong through well-documented intimidation of the media and efforts to challenge the patriotism of pro-democracy supporters. In March, three of Hong Kong's leading broadcasters had to resign their positions after receiving death threats and having their businesses vandalized because of their criticism of the Chinese government. Throughout the year, pro-democracy lawmakers and activists have also suffered threats and vandalism. Hong Kong's delegate to Beijing stepped down from his position saying he was powerless to effect change.

The Chinese government's campaign to crack down on freedom in Hong Kong will only succeed in shining a spotlight on the courage and leadership of Hong Kong's democratic movement. The United States must stand solidly with the people of Hong Kong and their desire for democracy.

Reminding Beijing of its obligations under previously-signed agreements must be our constant message. Tepid remarks by Bush Administration officials are not a sufficient response to protect the nascent democracy in Hong Kong. President Bush should not hesitate to define the U.S.-China relationship in terms of the willingness of the Chinese government to discharge the commitments contained in those agreements.

U.S. policy toward Hong Kong should be consistent with the provisions of the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 that require autonomy and empower the President to halt existing agreements with Hong Kong or take other steps if he determines that Beijing is interfering unduly in Hong Kong's affairs.

H. Res. 667 conveys that message in a clear and forceful manner, and deserves the support of this House.

HONORING THE WORK OF DEBRA BARRON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of one of my constituents, Debra Barron, who suffers from a debilitating disease called scleroderma. Debra and her family have been tireless advocates in drawing public attention to this painful condition. Her work demonstrates her strength and resolve, and I ask that her remarks from the March 20, 2004 Scleroderma Foundation Wine Auction & Dinner in Broward County be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Imagine for a moment you're a 26-year-old newlywed . . . young, healthy, athletic, and pursuing a serious career. That was me in September 1981, when, one afternoon as I'm washing my hands the color in them suddenly changed from pink to stark white. There was no warning, no pain or discomfort. Two weeks later, after a battery of tests requiring copious amounts of my blood, a doctor at the George Washington Hospital Center in D.C. informs me I have a "condition" known as Raynauds, which is basically a loss of circulation to the extremities. Raynauds is easily manageable with medication and isn't a problem except when the circulation returns; some will experience a minor sensation such as tingling while others endure severe pain as the blood vessels return to normal and the color returns. So there I am, I'm 26, having never been seriously sick a day in my life, and I think to myself . . . "This is nothing. Go home and don't worry."

My husband, Gary, and I moved to San Francisco in 1982. My doctor in DC suggested I seek out a physician to monitor my condition in the event. I needed follow-up care. Since I needed a physician anyway I'm not too concerned. From 1982 to 1983 the Raynauds become aggressive. The first to go was my left index fingertip which developed a gangrene-type sore, and had to be removed by a doctor, also losing my fingernail and some bone matter. No problem . . . I still had nine good fingers but, as time elapsed, more fingers became infected and each episode brought new horrors, as well as physical pain, as I watched my fingers literally die. Needless to say there went my regular manicure appointments.

By the spring of 1983, my condition had become more aggressive. Chewing and swallowing food was now something I actually had to think about because food would get stuck or caught in my esophagus. My doctors were supportive and encouraging, but they were running out of options and I wasn't responding to experimentation with medication. Basically, I was still taking medication for a "condition" that was supposed to be manageable.

The pain was also getting worse. Many scleroderma patients experience severe pain and it becomes a way of life, day in, day out, sometimes for months on end.

The sores don't heal quickly because the blood vessels clamp down, which suppresses the flow of oxygen to the blood and thereby causes poor circulation. Chronic pain gets old very quickly and it affects everything in your life: I no longer felt young, I certainly didn't feel healthy, I was suffering from fatigue, my career was suffering, and the biggest insult of all was the total loss of my sexuality and how I felt about myself as a woman. I was broken in all the ways that matter to any human being. It didn't help

that my family was on the other side of the country, my husband was traveling, and the only thing my doctors could do was offer encouragement. It was at that point I made a conscious decision to do something and as I drove over the Golden Gate Bridge one afternoon, crying from pain, I intended to end my life.

San Francisco police don't like speeders on the Golden Gate Bridge and I got pulled over. I knew I was about to receive a whopper of a ticket when the officer realized how hard I had been crying. I explained about the pain and told him I was in a hurry to get home to take my pain medication. He offered to escort me home, which he did, took me upstairs to my apartment, waited while I took my medication and stayed with me. He never spoke of God or having faith, nor did he try to offer encouragement. He just sat there with me and let me do the thinking.

Realizing the consequences of what I tried to do to myself hit me hard. The state of my health was no longer something I could deny and from that point on I chose to become more aggressive regarding my condition. I was basically being monitored, not treated, for a disease no one understood and it still took another 12 years before a doctor finally recognized my symptoms as Scleroderma.

I still get sores and have to deal with pain but life is good again. I'm in remission now thanks to my scleroderma doctor, Frederick Wigley, at Johns Hopkins plus the myriad physicians that oversee my healthcare.

I'm very fortunate to have a loving and supportive family, both my immediate family and Gary's family. But, most importantly, the two people I live with have been tremendously supportive.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE "BEBE" CANTER, CPCU, ARM, ON COMPLETION OF HER TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS OF AMERICA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Louise "BeBe" Canter, CPCU, ARM, who is completing her term as president of the Nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA)—this October in Orlando.

Louise was elected to IIABA's Executive Committee in October 1998 and was installed as this great organization's president last September. She is executive vice president of Patterson/Smith Associates of Falls Church, VA and resides in Bethesda, MD with her husband, Bob, and their two sons, Christopher and Matthew.

Louise has enjoyed a distinguished career as an independent insurance agent that has been highlighted by her tireless service and dedication to her clients, community, IIABA, the Metropolitan Washington Association of Independent Insurance Agents (MWAIIA) and her colleagues across the country.

Louise's service to her peers began with her involvement with the Metropolitan Washington Association. She served as MWAIIA's president and as the organization's representative to IIABA's National Board of Directors. In recognition of her outstanding service, MWAIIA named her its 1991 Agent of the Year.

Louise also served as chairman of the Southern Agents Conference, an annual conference of agents from several States, including Maryland.

In addition to her position on the IIABA Executive Committee, Louise also serves as a member of the Association's Large Agents & Brokers Roundtable.

Her other industry volunteer work includes service as a member of the D.C. Society of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters' Board of Directors and the Standard & Poor's Agent Advisory Council, and chair of the CNA Branch PACER Agent Panel and the Southern Agents Conference.

A highlight in Louise's community involvement is her service as a member of Howard University's Scholarship Committee.

I applaud Louise for her tireless leadership of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and for the numerous accomplishments achieved for all independent insurance agents and brokers during this past year.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the unanimously agreed upon Concluding Document of the Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom, which occurred in Brussels, Belgium in early August of this year. Over 30 different countries from Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Latin America sent parliamentarians to participate in the conference to discuss issues of ethnicity, religion and citizenship, responses to anti-Semitism, terrorism and religious freedom, religious registration laws, trafficking in persons, and women's rights. In addition, a number of nongovernmental and religious organizations attended and participated. These kinds of gatherings are vital in building relationships and understanding, and ultimately cooperation and partnership, between peoples of all nations.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AUGUST 7, 2004, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The Second Session of the Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom encourages the genuine expression of opinions from representatives of the peoples of the world. There is no greater legitimacy than that expressed by peoples in their choice of representatives.

The great variety of cultures, the different paths to God, the diverse ethnic backgrounds, and the disparity of historic goals often lead to conflict and bloodshed between peoples, but should instead be sources of inspiration in our quest for valid solutions.

Religious freedom is the first human right and should not be confined to the private sphere only.

We live in an era characterized by aspirations towards diversity and tolerance but clouded by tragic failures of mutual respect. True religious freedom is more than mere tolerance. It constitutes an embracing of

universal human dignity as a consequence of one's religious convictions. Every individual has inherent dignity and worth, and the state is constituted to serve society, not vice versa.

The forceful attempts to build homogenous societies in the last century led to horrendous human sufferings, to the carnage of world wars and to genocide.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has become the framework for a global compact with great moral authority and the promise of a more just international order.

Lifestyles and social structures rooted in different religions should be preserved in order to maintain peace and harmony on all levels, from the local community to the world order.

Prejudice and repression based on ethnic, religious and cultural background persist. In some cases these insults to human dignity enjoy the authority of law and the state.

Ethnic and religious intolerance are unacceptable and should not be used as a basis for restricting citizenship. A civic covenant and the rule of law constitute the only rational basis for creating a just society.

Any cultural and spiritual invocation of undetermined historic or divine authority as justification for hatred and rejection of others directly and actively violates universally proclaimed human rights.

The Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom solemnly reaffirms the right to freedom of religion and belief for each person, and rejects any attempt to restrict fundamental rights on the basis of religious, ethnic or cultural identity including restrictions or forcing any religious dress.

Anti-Semitism is a global concern and never a function of Jewish conduct. Reducing the magnitude of Jewish suffering throughout history to politics alienates and distorts our own humanity.

The alarming signs of recurrence of Anti-Semitism, especially in some advanced societies of Western Europe, indicate a deep-rooted prejudice.

The Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom condemns hatred on the basis of religious, ethnic or cultural identity, including restricting or forcing religious dress.

Security has become a global problem. No nation is able to protect its citizens and territorial integrity without international solidarity.

The very concept of great power changes its contour in an environment where fringe groups are able to disrupt and damage the very structure of a society.

Where freedom of religion and belief is protected by governments and valued by citizens, religion-based terrorism will not take root. It may take advantage of a free society, but sustained support will not emerge.

Freedom of religion is an antidote to terrorism—especially religion-based terrorism. It encourages a theological and political awareness of the need to accept pluralism.

Discriminating on the basis of religious beliefs or discrediting religious practices are contrary to respect for fundamental human dignity. They destabilize society by creating a climate of tension, intolerance, opposition and suspicion.

Respect for freedom of religion and belief is an effective means of promoting national and international security and stability.

The gravest danger in the world today comes from fanaticism and extremism that exploits ideals of spiritual and religious movements.

Manipulation of religion and spiritual beliefs for violent and terrorist purposes, including murder and destruction of properties, is unacceptable.

The global pandemic of HIV/AIDs constitutes a terrible assault on human rights and demands effective action and enforcement of international commitments for education, prevention, care and treatment.

Trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, is recognized as a form of enslavement which violates fundamental human rights.

Steps need to be taken to ensure that the offense of trafficking in persons is recognized globally as criminal, and to prevent further trafficking in persons.

It is imperative to strengthen international institutions and to create new instruments that will address and protect the rights of religious and ethnic minorities.

The Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom appreciates the work of the Secretariat and recommends to it that it consult the maximum number of countries in the elaboration of its future programs.

The Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom encourages parliaments and governments to nurture environments of free expression and respect for human dignity.

In this spirit the Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom is grateful to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco for his generous appreciation of our work:

"It is therefore appropriate that this sort of initiative becomes the foundational undertaking of an international civilization, where complementarity between people is substituted for confrontation and where faith in the paramount necessity of cooperation overcomes the illusion of self-reliance and autarchy."

The Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom accepts the proposal of the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the Third Session in 2005.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 13, I was in Kentucky tending to official business and was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 441, 442 and 443. The votes were on House Concurrent Resolutions 363, and House Resolutions 667 and 760. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all measures.

IN HONOR OF JAMES SPRIGGS'S RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE GREATER IRVING-LAS COLINAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. James A. Spriggs on the occasion of his retirement as President of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Spriggs became President of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce in April of 1995, and the organization

has seen massive growth under his experienced leadership and dedication. The Greater Irving-Las Collins Chamber of Commerce now has a budget in excess of \$1.2 million and plays a vital role in assisting the promotion of business in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas.

Mr. Spriggs's involvement in the community is not limited to his role with the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce; however, he is an active volunteer for a number of societal organizations. Among his commitments include: the United Cerebral Palsy of Arkansas, Irving Hospital Foundation, Dallas Easter Seal Society for Children, Former President of the Irving Symphony Orchestra, Member of the Board of Councilors for the University of Dallas in Irving along with many more contributions that are too many to mention. His active presence will be greatly missed, but he has the thanks of the greater Irving community for his many years of dedication and volunteer service.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Mr. Spriggs, his wife Carolyn, and the rest of the Spriggs family all the best on this occasion.

IN HONOR OF JOHN C. HEDLUND'S CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION TO THE GLENDALE COMMUNITY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Hedlund for his outstanding leadership and service to the Glendale community.

John Hedlund has been a major source of positive influence for the Greater Glendale area for many years. He has served as President of the Glendale News-Press and the Burbank Daily Review, as well as President and Chief Executive Officer of California Offset Printers. He is a past President of the Glendale Community College Board of Education, the Glendale Unified School District, and Chairman of the ABC Committee to prioritize the spending of \$184 million for GUSD. Mr. Hedlund has served as a member and Elder of Glendale Presbyterian Church. He was also Chairman and Board Member of the Glendale Salvation Army Advisory Board, the President of the Glendale Rotary Club, and member of the Downtown Strategic Plan Committee since its inception. Mr. Hedlund was also Chairman of the Town Center Committee, President of the Glendale Development Council and of Glendale Partners, President and Board Member of the Alex Theater, President of the Glendale Symphony Orchestra Association, Board Member of the YMCA, and Board Member of both the Verdugo Club and Oakmont Country Club.

John is the recipient of countless honors. He was named "Man of the Year" by the Glendale Chamber of Commerce as well as the Glendale Board of Realtors. He also received the Glendale Bar Association Liberty Bell award and the Congressional Award for Community Service. John is a nationally recognized leader in the Graphic Arts Industry, serving in key leadership roles in several graphic arts organizations and receiving many

of the top regional and national honors in the field.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Mr. John Hedlund for his lifetime of exemplary public service, and for his immense commitment to the City of Glendale and its residents.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BARTHOLOMEW-WILLIAMS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece have concluded but will not be forgotten. The Games have yielded some of the most incredible competition in the history of sports. The athletes have rigorously trained and endured formidable obstacles in their quest for the distinction of the world's elite.

Susan Bartholomew-Williams, one of my constituents, made us all proud. At the recent Olympics, she achieved legendary status by placing third in the Olympic Triathlon at Athens and bringing home a bronze medal.

Since beginning her career a decade ago Susan has had numerous top-ten finishes and has risen to the uppermost echelons of her sport. Susan did not compete in the 2000 Sydney Games due to the birth of her daughter and was out of competition in 1999 as a result of a debilitating side effect of her treatment for a pulmonary embolism. But she came back stronger than ever and brought home the bronze medal for the United States in the triathlon.

Mr. Speaker, I am in awe of the rigor and perseverance displayed by Ms. Bartholomew-Williams in the 2004 Olympic Triathlon, and all of the athletes who represented the U.S. in Athens. I wish her further success in all her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK GAGLIARDI, ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Mark Gagliardi, who on September 17, 2004 will be named the Activist of the Year for Contra Costa County, California at the AFL-CIO's Labor-2-Labor dinner in my congressional district. Mr. Gagliardi gained this honor after the delegates representing over 80,000 union men and women in Contra Costa County voted to recognize the work he does for his fellow union members.

Mark is a steward with OPEIU Local 277 at American Income Life. American Income Life is the only 100 percent union insurance company in California. Mark maintains a food bank for striking union members at American Income Life and has made food deliveries throughout Northern California. He has been on dozens of picket lines throughout the State and his unique style with a bullhorn is seldom forgotten.

Mark established with American Income Life the "Shoot for a Cure" Charity Sporting Clays Shoot to raise money for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Fund and has raised tens of thousands of dollars to fight that disease.

When union men and women speak about a revitalized union movement in our Nation, it is people like Mark Gagliardi that represent that new spirit. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Mark for being named Activist of the Year.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT OF SONOMA COUNTY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United Against Sexual Assault (UASA) of Sonoma County on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1974 as Women Against Rape, the agency consisted of a phone number to call for emotional support. Today that crisis line operates 24 hours a day, and the organization has 12 board members, 14 paid staff, and more than 40 volunteers who address the problems related to all forms of sexual assault.

Over the past 30 years, UASA as greatly expanded the services offered to the people of Sonoma County. It provides extensive training on helping victims, including not only women and girls, but also men, children, and the families of victims. Staff and volunteers also accompany victims and their families for police reporting, court appearances, medical exams, or other personal situations.

Prevention programs include outreach to elementary through high school youths, reaching approximately 6,000 young people every year, as well as parents and school personnel. Other efforts include bilingual outreach to Hispanic teens, teen peer education training, anti-racism curriculum which deals with violence against the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender community, and a unique men's program featuring men educating men. All services are offered at no cost.

UASA also plays a key role in the county's pioneering SART (sexual assault response team) which unites law enforcement, mental health, legal, and advocacy programs to support victims and families. This collaborative project makes services easily accessible and minimizes the stress felt by victims. The agency is also working with the District Attorney's office to establish a county-wide Family Justice Center by 2005.

In May 2004, Executive Director Gloria Young was named "Outstanding Director of the Year" by the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault for shepherding the agency through many of these transitions.

Mr. Speaker, UASA's long-term mission is to eliminate all forms of sexual assault. I know that with its inspired leadership, dedicated staff, and committed volunteers United Against Sexual Assault of Sonoma County has brought our community a long way toward achieving this goal and will not be satisfied until they have reached it. I salute UASA on their 30th anniversary and look forward to the day when their services are no longer needed.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR
ELECTORAL PROCESS**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement on the FY 2005 Funding of the Federal Election and Election Assistance Commission. As Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on House Administration, I am especially interested in the Appropriations Committee's funding recommendation for the Federal Election Commission, the Election Assistance Commission and programs implementing the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). While these commissions and the programs they administer comprise a very small portion of the federal budget, the process of electing federal officials is critical to the health of our democracy.

I am pleased that the committee provided full funding for the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The FEC administers campaign finance and presidential election laws, and in recent years it has received additional responsibilities.

Although the process has been contentious at times, I am happy to see that both sides of the committee came together and not only met the authorized funding of \$10 million for the EAC, but exceed it by \$5 million.

I recognize that the President's delay in appointing members to the EAC gave the commission a late start, but I remain hopeful that the EAC can regain lost time during the coming fiscal year. Given the 2000 Florida election debacle and widespread public interest in election procedures, we need to assure voters nationwide of the sanctity of their votes in the electronic age. In the coming year, I expect that the EAC will use this additional money to devote appropriate attention to standards and technology issues with the assistance of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The EAC and its NIST partner must expedite the development of proper standards so the American people can realize the potential of HAVA, especially the election reform programs, which the Appropriations Committee also did not fund. The EAC must also establish the Help America Vote Foundation, as authorized by HAVA, so the foundation can help civic organizations encourage voter participation.

Implementing a new federal program like HAVA is often fraught with difficulty. In this case, however, there is not a moment to lose, for it is our democracy at risk. The Committee on House Administration looks forward to working with the FEC, the EAC, state election officials, and interest groups to ensure that federal election laws and programs achieve their important purpose.

Again, I would like to commend the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Transportation-Treasury subcommittee for including this critical funding for the EAC.

SUPPORT OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER
ASSISTANCE ACT**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act (H.R. 1787).

First, this bill would prohibit civil lawsuits from being brought against a person who donates fire-control or fire-rescue equipment to a volunteer fire company, under state or federal law, for personal, property damages or loss, or death caused by the equipment subsequent to the donation. But this prohibition against lawsuits would not apply in cases where the donor's actions constitute gross negligence, intentional misconduct, or where the person is the manufacturer of the fire-control or fire-rescue equipment.

Second, the bill would preempt state laws to the extent that those laws are inconsistent with the bill. But it would not preempt state law that provides additional protection from liability for an individual who donates firefighting equipment.

Finally, the bill would also require the U.S. Justice Department to review and report to Congress on donations of equipment made to volunteer firefighter companies in each state during the previous five-year period. Such report would include an analysis of the most effective way to fund firefighter companies for each state, whether first-responder funding is sufficient, and the best method to make sure donated equipment to volunteer companies is in usable condition.

This bill protects people, who out of the goodness of their own hearts, donate much-needed equipment to our brave firefighters who selflessly volunteer to defend our communities. We all know that there are many pressing and unmet needs among volunteer fire departments across the country. Yes, I was pleased to vote for the FY 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill when it passed the House last June and it provides \$32 billion to improve our nation's homeland security, including several billion for our firefighters and other first responders. We would like to have done more, but the dire fiscal condition of the federal budget precludes us from doing so.

It makes common sense to me that we then make certain that these so-called good Samaritans can make supplementary donations of equipment to help meet the needs of volunteer firefighters. This bill does that, while also safeguarding against shoddy donations that might jeopardize the lives of our volunteer firefighters and in our communities.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
OFFICER TIMOTHY JACOB LAIRD**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Officer Timothy Jacob Laird of Indianapolis, Indiana, who was tragically shot and killed on August

18, 2004 during an act of bravery in the line of duty.

Known as Jake to his friends, Timothy Laird was born on September 17, 1972 in Logansport, Indiana. At the age of 4, Jake already knew he wanted to be a police officer. He graduated from Warren Central High School in 1991 and enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he spent 8 years in service to his country. In 2000, he joined the Indianapolis Police Department in the 93rd Recruit Class, fulfilling his lifelong dream.

Jake Laird was a member of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #86. He took part in the investigation of more than 600 incidents during his 4 years of service with the Indianapolis Police Department, earning two commendations.

On August 18th, Officer Laird responded to reports of a man shooting a machine gun in a southside neighborhood of Indianapolis. The suspect's indiscriminate shooting injured four officers, who were treated in area hospitals. Officer Laird was fatally wounded, becoming the 56th officer to die in the line of duty in the 150-year history of the Indianapolis Police Department. He was 31.

Officer Laird's bravery and sacrifice for the people of Indianapolis has touched the lives of his community. On August 23rd, hundreds of citizens, many of whom had never met Timothy Laird, lined up along the 20-mile funeral route in silent tribute. Over 1,000 police cars from all over Indiana, as well as Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois, took part in the procession honoring his service. Police Chief Jerry Barker awarded him the Indianapolis Police Department's Medal of Honor posthumously, only the fourth time it had been given in 150 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending my deepest condolences to his wife Jennifer and their beloved 7-year-old daughter Kaylee; his parents Deborah and Michael Laird and Timothy and Barb Althouse; his brothers Gaben Laird, Christopher Laird, Timothy Althouse, and Dan and Matt Wilhelm; his sisters Sarah Althouse and Heather Laird; and his grandparents Mrs. Howard Dodson and Donald and Rosemary McEldowney.

A United States veteran, beloved father, husband and family member, Jake Laird will be deeply missed. His strength and service to his country and community will be remembered always by all whom he inspired and loved.

The citizens of Indianapolis extend our heartfelt gratitude for his sacrifice and dedication to public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on Monday, September 13, 2004.

Had I been here I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 363 expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 667 expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong.

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 760 condemning the series of terrorist attacks

against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of this week's anniversary of independence of numerous Latin American countries, of our country's National Hispanic Heritage Month, and in special recognition of Latinos in my district and throughout our country.

Today, September 15, five Latin American countries commemorate their independence, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. I join these nations in mutual celebration of liberty, democracy and freedom, values which we hold so dear.

Today also marks the beginning of our country's National Hispanic Heritage Month. During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of our friends and neighbors who trace their roots to Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

I am proud that my district is the home of more than 100,000 residents of Hispanic or Latino descent. This community is comprised of individuals who cherish their various ethnicities, national origins, and opinions. And yet, the Hispanic-American community is united by the importance that they place on faith, family, hard work, and the hope of sharing in a better America. We in Congress must re-dedicate ourselves to ensuring that our friends and neighbors in the Hispanic community have the opportunity to build their businesses, take full advantage of our schools and universities, and unite their families across borders—a task upon which my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have endeavored for many years.

Mr. Speaker, the Hispanic community is a vital part of my district and our country. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in support and celebration of the many Latin American countries celebrating their independence this week, of the beginning of our great National Hispanic Heritage Month, and of all our Hispanic brethren.

HONORING 115 YEARS OF HISTORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Morris Area YMCA, in Randolph Township, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On September 17, 2004, the good citizens of Randolph and neighboring municipalities are celebrating the West Morris Area YMCA's One-Hundred-Fifteenth Anniversary.

One hundred and fifteen years ago, the West Morris Area YMCA was founded in the

town of Dover. The year 1889 was the beginning of a YMCA that established itself today as one of the area's distinguished community organizations.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church in Dover was home of the first YMCA. Known then as the YMCA of Dover, The "Y" soon attracted nearly 200 of the area's youth per day.

In 1908, the YMCA expanded beyond Dover to include Succasunna, Wharton, Whippany, Rockaway, Chester, and German Valley, now Long Valley. For the next four decades the Y maintained its popularity, occupying various locations on or near Blackwell Street in Dover.

As membership continued to grow, after World War II, there was a need for a more permanent facility. In 1951 the YMCA headquarters on Route 46 at the corner of North Bergen Street was dedicated.

By the late 1970's the need for a building, which offered a gymnasium and a pool, was becoming evident. Expansion of the Dover building was possible but parking was a problem as the Y began to attract more and more participants from the growing residential areas outside of Dover, including Randolph Township.

In 1976, the name West Morris Area YMCA was established to reflect this expanding service area and ground was broken for a new facility on Dover Chester Road in Randolph in 1977. The brand new YMCA, offering a pool, gymnasium, fitness equipment, racquetball courts and program space was officially opened in 1979.

The YMCA is dedicated to helping all people, regardless of age, race, religion, sex, or economic status to reach their fullest potential. It is with great pride we all look upon the volunteers and staff of the past and present that are the true strength of this remarkable organization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating West Morris Area YMCA on the celebration of its one-hundred-fifteen years serving the western part of the Morris County!

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
DAVID WEISENBERG AND SPECIALIST
BENJAMIN ISENBERG

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, scripture tells us that for everything there is a season; there will be times of planting, times of harvest, times of peace, and even times of war. And yet, my heart is heavy when we bury our children. Staff Sergeant David Weisenberg and Specialist Benjamin Isenberg were killed in an ambush in Taji, Iraq yesterday. These two proud soldiers were patrolling the frontier of hope—ready, willing, and able to stand up for the freedoms of people they never really knew. These two men were Oregon's future. They were brave, idealistic, and passionate men—united in the belief that their individual sacrifice might hasten the day that all people could enjoy the sweet blessings of freedom and liberty.

In his Gettysburg Address, Lincoln explained that there was nothing he could say that would matter as much as what the fallen

had done—that his words were spoken on hallowed ground, ground made sacred by the purity of self-sacrifice. Friends, colleagues, fellow Americans—his truth endures today. Both men were dedicated professionals that came from families accustomed to public service, individual sacrifice. I am blessed by their example; I am proud, touched—forever changed by their humble act of courage.

Taji is not Sheridan, it is not Portland—the Iraqi civilians they gave their lifeblood for were not their neighbors, friends, or family. That didn't matter to them. It never does for heroes. The citizens of Taji were people in need, and that was good enough for David and Benjamin. These men did their duty because they believed in the spirit of America; they wore the uniform and accepted the risks because they knew that long journeys result from small steps. David and Benjamin were more than Oregon Patriots—though patriots they were. David and Benjamin were the face of the very essence of what it means to be American.

So today, I ask that we recommit ourselves to the ideals of our democracy; that we renew our personal investment in the America that David and Benjamin were willing to fight and ultimately die for. It is to them and those that follow that we owe our time, talent, and treasure. It is to them that we owe a solution that brings honor to their sacrifice.

Let us do these things and bring about the kind of society that David and Benjamin wouldn't just be willing to die for, but a community of liberty they would celebrate.

SIKHS CELEBRATE 400TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THEIR HOLY
SCRIPTURES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month Sikhs around the world celebrated the 400th anniversary of the first installation of their holy scriptures, known as the Guru Granth Sahib. The Guru Granth Sahib, written in the lifetimes of the 10 Sikh Gurus, contains the writings of the Sikh Gurus as revealed to them and some writings by other saints who share their basic philosophy. When the Indian military attacked the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest shrine, in June 1984, they shot bullet holes through the Guru Granth Sahib.

There was a major celebration of the anniversary in Amritsar, which was attended by the Indian President, Abdul Kalam; by the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh; and by the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Buddhism, among many others. Apparently, India was trying to maintain its false front of secularism. But the people of South Asia know better.

The Guru Granth Sahib established Sikhism as a monotheistic religion that believes in the equality of all people. Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the Sikh Gurus, who consecrated the Guru Granth Sahib, made independence a basic principle of the religion.

As you know, India continues to oppress the Sikhs. Over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Hindu militant Indian government. In addition, the Indian regime has murdered over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens

of thousands of other minorities. They are holding over 52,000 Sikhs as political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) and tens of thousands of other minorities, according to Amnesty International.

The only way to preserve basic human rights for minorities in India is to stop all aid and trade until India observes these basic liberties. And we should also go on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and the minority nations of South Asia. That will help bring freedom, prosperity, peace, and stability to this troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to place the Council of Khalistan's press release on the celebration into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU GRANTH SAHIB

WASHINGTON, DC, Sept. 10, 2004.—On September 1, Sikhs gathered in Anuitsar to observe the 400th anniversary of the first installation of the Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, at Darbar Sahib, the holiest of Sikh shrines. Indian President Abdul Kalam, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Buddhism, attended the celebration. Sikhs remember that bullets pierced through the Guru Granth Sahib during Operation Bluestar, the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in 1984.

The Guru Granth Sahib was written by the Sikh Gurus as revealed to them by God. It was written at the time in which they lived. It also includes the writing of other saints of that time which fit the philosophy of the Sikh Gurus.

"This anniversary is a joyous occasion for the Sikh Nation as we celebrate the Sikh way of life as given to us by the Gurus," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, leads the struggle to liberate Khalistan, which declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic religion that believes in the equality of the whole human race. The tenth and last Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, declared the blessing "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi," conferring sovereignty on the Sikh Nation, which is culturally, linguistically, and religiously distinct from any other people in the world, including Hindu India. "We must honor the Guru by reclaiming our lost sovereignty," Dr. Aulakh said.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. Christians and Muslims have also been murdered in other parts of the country. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a study by the Movement Against State Repression, 52,268 Sikhs are being held in illegal detention as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984!

Christian missionary Joseph Cooper was expelled from India after a mob of militant Hindu nationalists allied with the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), a fundamentalist, pro-Fascist organization that is the parent organization of the BJP, beat him so severely he had to spend a week in the hospital. In 2002, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were

murdered in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand aside, reminiscent of the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs. Indian newspapers reported that the government planned the Gujarat massacre in advance.

India is not one country; it is a polyglot thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience. Sikhs ruled Punjab until 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Sikhs were equal partners during the transfer of power from the British. The Muslim leader Jinnah got Pakistan, the Hindu leaders got India, but the Sikh leadership was fooled by the Hindu leadership promising that Sikhs would have "the glow of freedom" in Northwest India. The Sikhs took their share with India on that promise. For that mistake, Sikhs are suffering now. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted.

"Democracies don't commit genocide," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only in a free and sovereign Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. In a democracy, the right to self-determination is the sine qua non and India should allow a plebiscite for the freedom of the Sikh Nation," he said.

"The Guru Granth Sahib is the reigning Guru of the Sikh Nation and reminds us of our heritage of freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "It is appropriate that it received a fitting celebration."

SYSTEMS—NATIONAL 8(a) GRADUATE OF THE YEAR

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to congratulate bd Systems and its President/Chief Executive Officer Clarisa F. Howard of Torrance, California on being named the United States Small Business Administration's National 8(a) Graduate of the Year.

I am very proud that this prestigious award, which is presented annually to companies who have demonstrated excellence in business since graduating from the SBA's 8(a) minority business development program, was awarded to a business located in the heart of the 37th District of California.

Clarisa Howard built bd Systems from a three-person operation in 1981, to a thriving company of more than 346 employees today. bd Systems has operations in twenty locations, including right here in the District of Columbia.

bd Systems has been recognized for over 20 years as a world-class provider of technology solutions, providing proven engineering and IT performance, design, analysis, and support. Under Clarisa's leadership, the firm has earned a positive reputation as a key subcontractor to several large defense contractors, including Boeing, which operates a facility in the Long Beach area of my District.

Mr. Speaker, this week is National Minority Enterprise Development Week, and minority business owners from all over the country are participating in a weeklong conference being held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel here in Washington, DC.

The theme for this year's conference, which is the largest federally sponsored activity held on behalf of minority business enterprises, is

"Forward to the Future, Minority Business Enterprise: The National Priority".

The conference is an important conduit in providing critical information to both the minority business community, and to corporate America at large. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the number of minority owned small businesses are growing nationwide and are an emerging economic force.

In closing, I'd like to salute Clarisa Howard and all of the employees of bd Systems for their tremendous achievement, and I am sure that they will continue to be a success for years to come.

OPPOSITION TO COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to a cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. During the recent August district work period, I traveled across Kansas, meeting with farmers and ranchers, teachers, small business owners, and health care providers. Many of them shared with me the difficulties they face making ends meet in our recovering economy with the rising costs of transportation and health care services. These individuals are working hard to provide for their families, but while they are experiencing first-hand the effects of a cost-of-living increase, an automatic pay raise is not available to them. Families in Kansas and across the country are making tough decisions, controlling spending, balancing their budgets, and practicing fiscal discipline; Members of Congress should be no different.

I am opposed to an automatic congressional pay raise and believe the process should be reformed. If Congress desires a pay increase, we should debate the issue as we do with other funding legislation. There should be a yes-no vote on the record with full disclosure to the public. Congressional action should reflect the interests of our constituents and any vote to increase Member salaries should be done with an open, transparent process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 441, 442 and 443. If present I would have voted "yea."

REMEMBERING TOM OSBURN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to the former mayor of Sherman,

TX, Tom Osburn, who died on August 6, 2004.

Tom Osburn was a selfless and devoted servant to the community of Sherman. Community leaders remember him as a man who worked constantly for the good of Sherman. If there was a problem, Tom was ready and willing to fix it. Friends recall that he was instrumental in getting a new building for the Texoma Council of Governments when a mold-infestation was discovered in the old building. The Old Settler's Park in Sherman was getting run down, so Tom led an effort to renovate the facility. He also made citizens feel as if they were integral to the success of the community. Rev. Jim Pledger stressed that Tom was a good mentor who encouraged people, through events like Great Days of Service, to give back to Sherman.

Tom and his wife, Jo Ann, arrived in Sherman in 1990. Tom served as TXU's district manager for the Texoma District. The Osburns quickly became an integral part of the community. In addition to serving as Mayor from 1999–2003, he was a member of the city council from 1998–2003. Tom also served on the Board of Directors of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of America, the American Cancer Society, the United Way, the Texoma Area Paratransit System, the Grayson County Rehabilitation Center, the Sherman Minority Recruitment Scholarship Foundation, and the Grayson County Juvenile Alternatives. Tom further gave his time and energies to the community as chairman of the Administrative Board of the First United Methodist Church, chairman of the Wilson N. Jones Memorial Hospital Foundation, and president of the Sherman Rotary Club. He served as president of the Board of Directors of the Texoma Council of Governments, and it isn't surprising that he was chosen this year as the Texoma Council of Government's Person of the Year for Grayson County.

Tom was a devoted family man. He met his wife, Jo Ann, at New London High School. They both graduated from the University of Texas at Austin after Tom played college basketball at Tyler Junior College, where his team took second place in the nation. Besides Jo Ann, Tom is survived by three children, Chris, Tim, and Beth, five grandchildren, and a sister, Pat Sager of Tyler.

The community of Sherman feels a deep and abiding loss by the death of Tom Osburn. Rarely has an individual made such a lasting and permanent mark on a town and its citizens. On behalf of his many friends and fans, and the community of Sherman, I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay our last respects to this honorable man—Tom Osburn.

HONORING J.D. ROGERS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. J.D. Rogers III, who on September 18, 2004, will be honored during the UAW Local 599 Walter Reuther award ceremony in Flint, MI, for his contributions as the longest serving production committeeman in the history of the local.

J.D. Rogers began his leadership career within UAW local 599 in 1976 when he was elected as alternative committeeman. One month after assuming his post he was elected to fulfill the position of the recently resigned committeeman. His superior leadership skills and support of the union membership granted him several unopposed elections to this post.

J.D. is committed to fulfilling Walter Reuther's mission of helping people, and ensuring human dignity and social justice for all. His hard work and dedication to the duties of his elected position is commendable. His deeds are self evident in the faith the members of 599 have bestowed upon him in allowing him to be re-elected. His service to the UAW extends many years and is highly regarded.

Mr. Speaker, many people have greatly benefited from the leadership and service of Mr. J.D. Rogers. His commitment to the UAW membership is unwavering. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating him on obtaining his mark in history and in wishing him the very best in future endeavors.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico declared its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18. These are some of the countries that comprise our diverse ethnic group, which have enriched our beautiful Nation.

The 2000 Census found that 35.3 million people identified themselves as Hispanic Americans. This represents a 58-percent increase from the previous Census of 1990. Hispanic Americans continue to thrive and exemplify the American dream. A larger percentage of Hispanic Americans are becoming proud homeowners. Hispanic-owned companies made up 6 percent of the Nation's 20.8 million nonfarm businesses, and earned \$186.3 billion in revenues. Since 1822, 73 Hispanic Americans have served in this very Chamber, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In March of last year, the Congressional Hispanic Conference, of which I am proud to serve as chair, was inaugurated. We are comprised of a group of Representatives of Hispanic and Portuguese descent, as well as Members who are interested in promoting policies of importance to Americans of Latino descent. The Conference will inform Hispanic Americans that their issues and concerns are being listened to and acted upon in the U.S. Congress. Lower taxes, affordable health care, and the education of our youth are all issues that are imperative to our conservative values. We will be strong advocates to ensure that the largest minority group in the United States has a loud and powerful voice in the Halls of Congress.

Educational advancement and funding continues to be an important issue for all Ameri-

cans, especially Hispanics. Congress has increased funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions by more than 750 percent—from \$10.8 million in 1996 to \$92.4 million in 2003. The Bush administration has also proposed an additional 5-percent increase in funding for minority serving institutions in FY05. This would increase funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions to \$94 million. This vital funding works to advance the educational pursuits of Hispanic Americans across our country.

Congress continues to amend and improve tax policy to the benefit of all Americans. H.R. 839, The Renewing the Dream Tax Credit Act, modifies the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an income tax credit for the provision of homeownership and community development. This bill would create tax incentives for the construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income families. The ability to afford and own your own home is a quintessential part of living and pursuing the American dream.

This Congress and our President are committed to ensuring that Hispanic Americans continue to seek economic opportunities and achieve prosperity. The huge increases in educational funding are unprecedented and will continue to serve the needs of the ever-growing Hispanic American community. A stronger, smarter, and fairer tax policy will continue to serve the needs of all Americans. A vibrant, stronger, and more educated Hispanic American population contributes to the greatness of this wonderful nation making us competitive for the new global economy in this technologically advanced society.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 2004

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans' Employment Act of 2004. Our veterans too often see limitations in the availability of civilian employment opportunities. While federal service positions offer preference to veterans, this provision is not universal in private industry. For many seeking a position in the private sector, the search for employment proves long and arduous.

During their time in the service, our veterans acquire several personal attributes that private employers find imperative in today's business world. While serving in the armed services, these men and women consistently demonstrate a high level of adaptability; the ability to work within a team; a strong work ethic; and, more often than not, exemplary leadership qualities. Alongside the extensive technical and strategic training sustained during their service, the character displayed by our veterans should be sufficient to secure them steady employment. Unfortunately, we have too often been shown that this is not the case.

During my tenure in Congress, many of my constituents have expressed to me their frustration with the availability of steady, well paid employment opportunities. Unlike their non-veteran contemporaries, they often find employers unfamiliar with the extensive training and exemplary personal attributes accumulated during their years of service. With their

skill sets and experience, our veterans most certainly deserve broader employment opportunities.

In response to this need for increased employment opportunities, I am honored to introduce the Veterans' Employment Act of 2004. It is my strong belief that our veterans provide some of the most valuable service both within and outside of our armed services. With support of this bill, we may further expand the employment opportunities available to our veterans and ensure the strength and reputation of America's private industries.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHARLES R. DREW, PROFESSOR OF SURGERY AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY AND PIONEER IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE; 1904–1950

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Charles R. Drew, pioneer in the field of medicine, professor of surgery, and innovator of the modern blood bank.

Dr. Drew, born 1904 in Washington, D.C., excelled academically. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Amherst College, Medical Doctorate and Master of Surgery degrees from McGill University, and a Doctor of Science in Medicine degree from Columbia University.

Dr. Drew was an outstanding athlete, starting in football and track at Dunbar High School and Amherst College. He received the Thomas W. Ashley Memorial Trophy for being the football team's most valuable player and achieved honorable mention All-American honors in football. He became an all-time leading scorer in intercollegiate track while attending McGill Medical College.

As a surgeon and specialist in blood research, in 1940 Dr. Drew organized the massive Blood for Britain project, in which blood plasma was separated, collected, and stored to aid the wounded in World War II. The following year he became director for the national American Red Cross program for blood procurement.

Dr. Drew is credited with organizing the concept of the blood bank. Dr. Drew pioneered the use of blood plasma for transfusion due to the longer life of blood with the plasma removed. Prior to his studies, blood could only be stored for seven days. Dr. Drew developed "bloodmobile" trucks with refrigeration units to collect and carry plasma, increasing the shelf life of blood. His blood bank in the Presbyterian Hospital in New York served as one of the models for the widespread system of blood banks used by the American Red Cross today. Countless lives were saved thanks to Dr. Drew's efforts in blood research and plasma separation.

Dr. Drew served as Professor of Surgery at Howard University and Chief Surgeon of its teaching and clinical facility, Freedmen's Hospital. There he trained America's first generation of black surgeons.

Dr. Drew was inducted into the Alpha Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity while attending Amherst College. While on the faculty of Howard University, he collaborated in the writing and composition of the fraternity's hymn, "Omega Dear."

Dr. Drew succeeded in each phase of his life being an outstanding example of African-American achievement. He left behind a legacy of life saving techniques.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Charles R. Drew for his pioneering achievements in blood research; his commitment to Howard University, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and his community; and for the many contributions he has made to our nation. It is truly an honor and a privilege to recognize Dr. Charles R. Drew in the United States House of Representatives on this day.

REMEMBERING THE "HELL ON WHEELS"

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, three and a half months after the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944 and nearly 1,000 miles away from the beaches of Normandy, France, the United States 2nd Armored Division—an outfit known as "Hell on Wheels" for its nucleus of tank units, the leadership of Major General George Patton, and its elite corps of servicemen—found its way to the Netherlands city of Sittard on September 19, 1944. Here, in the southernmost province of The Netherlands, close to the Belgian and German border, the "Hell on Wheels" battalion waged war against the Nazi's that for four years had forced their fascist values upon the people of that city.

When the battle was over, America lost at least sixty-two of the bravest men ever to wear our uniform. One account of the battle's outcome went like this: "Here they (the "Hell on Wheels") received an overwhelming welcome by crowds of Dutch, euphoric citizens liberated free again after four long years of German fascist occupation, saving them from the hardships like the citizens of Amsterdam had still to endure because of shortages of food and fuel during the entire coming, unusual severe winter."

Accounts of what exactly occurred and how many servicemen died in Sittard are not entirely known. The National Personnel Records Center, which houses personal files for veterans of World War II was unable to provide more information about soldiers potentially lost during the battle in Sittard due to a fire at their St. Louis Records Center in 1973.

Still, we know that the men who died that day did not yearn to be heroes or to have a memorial dedicated in their honor. They came from all walks of life and all regions of America, including from my home state of New Jersey, to serve in the Armed Forces and defend freedom. They yearned for reaching Berlin, winning the war and enjoying their homecomings. And they dreamed of seeing their parents, wives and newborn babies.

This weekend, American families, friends and descendants of the sixty-two "Hell on Wheels" servicemen who lost their lives, as well as residents of Sittard (now known as Sittard-Geleen), past and present, will come together in Sittard-Geleen to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the city's freedom due in large part to the bravery of these sixty-two American souls who will never be forgotten.

Together, they are unveiling a fitting memorial in this Dutch city to honor the service,

bravery and sacrifice of these servicemen. One account about the new memorial said: "It will be made famous, hard stone excavated in the very heart of the Ardennes, a notorious battlefield, where such great courage and perseverance were shown that we shall never forget."

This memorial service has been a long time coming. In a joint effort, that spanned nearly a year, the U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, Clifford Sobel, Arno Bemelmans, a local Dutchman and the Foundation Chairman for the new memorial, two Army Genealogists—Charles Gailey and Arvan Staats—we discovered in a recent Washington Post article, and myself put forth an all out effort to track down and notify as many family members related to the "Hell on Wheels" soldiers as possible about the memorial dedication. Through our efforts, we successfully reached family members for 25 of the 62 deceased servicemen.

For all, including myself, dedicating this memorial means an opportunity to pay respects to those who gave everything to defend freedom. For some, it also means the chance to possibly recognize the name of another soldier's relative they once may have heard about in a letter or telegraph home or in a journal entry recovered years later, or to remember a face, voice or even a memory from a lifetime ago.

Today, let us honor each of sixty-two servicemen from the "Hell on Wheels" battalion who lost their lives in Sittard by pledging this: Only through preserving our past can we guarantee a future where the lessons and legacy of these servicemen will be rightfully remembered.

For this to be true, I'm reminded of what the patriot Thomas Paine observed more than 220 years ago as our forefathers fought to gain their own freedom for the first time.

Paine said: "Those who expect to reap the blessing of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

As we honor our hero soldiers this weekend in the Netherlands, we must not forget that "freedom is not free." It is worth fighting for, and those who fought must be remembered and honored forever.

In the end, the remaining servicemen from "Hell on Wheels" battalion did cross the German border to meet the enemy on their own soil. They played a crucial role in the Battle of the Bulge and finally crossed the Rhine River in 1945 to free thousands of prisoners of war and slave laborers.

History books may never report what the "Hell on Wheels" battalion accomplished in Sittard. Future generations may never know what happened in this city or at dozens, maybe even hundreds, of other battlefields like it across Europe. But for this moment, this weekend, let us all remember with a heavy heart the "Hell on Wheels 62."

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS KEN W. LEISTEN

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the life of an Oregon Soldier, beloved patriot, and proud son. Private First Class Ken W. Leisten was recently

killed in Taji, Iraq—far away from friends, family, and the Willamette Valley that he loved so much.

Ken was the last of the Leisten men—the pride and joy of his grandma and a large extended family that lives from California to the Midwest. Private Leisten made his community stronger because of the choices he made, the way he lived his life.

Unlike many of his comrades, Private Leisten was a full-time guardsman. He was permanently assigned to the 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry HQ, but he volunteered to serve in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion—so someone else wouldn't have to. Typical. This decision was the rule instead of the exception for this exceptional young man.

The lasting tragedy of his noble sacrifice is that Private Leisten was exactly the kind of American that we need more of, the type of soldier—the kind of citizen—that makes us all better people.

Sacrifice—the willful regard for others at his own expense—was Ken Leisten's life philosophy; it is his legacy. In actions large and small, Private Leisten took the time to care.

A soldier in a hostile land, Ken Leisten set about making a difference by reaching out. He shared his limited water with Iraqi children in the village where he served to establish and then keep peace.

Think about it; safe drinking water in a hot, unforgiving desert. Not many people would share their canteen, but Ken did. He consciously made the effort to share what little he had with those around him—because he knew their need was greater.

Part teacher, mentor, cheerleader, and coach—Ken spent his brief life assisting his fellow soldiers learn the art of war while helping them maintain balance: responsibilities as soldiers with their needs as parents, spouses, and workers.

One thousand Americans have perished since this administration committed our time, talent, and treasure to the liberation and reconstruction of Iraq. And unfortunately it is all too easy for the incredible life and terrible death of one citizen-soldier to get lost in the numbers.

I say this because despite the noise surrounding the war, a silent truth endures: there is no more sacred or loving gift than laying down your life for the protection of another. Private Ken Leisten gave us this gift.

Let us commit ourselves to ensuring Ken Leisten's example is our example; that his sacrifice—celebrated, applied—and never, ever forgotten.

Private Ken Leisten made a difference in the lives of Iraqi children he knew he would never see again—he laid down his life so that the People of Iraq might have a chance at self governance and peace.

We, in this Chamber and beyond these marble walls, are all accountable to the spirit of Ken Leisten. We must redouble our efforts, rekindle the flame of liberty, and renew our America to earn the freedom that Private Leisten gave his life for.

INDIA SHOULD OPEN BORDER AT WAGAH FOR TRADE, TRAVEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Chief Minister of Punjab, Captain Amarinder Singh has called for an opening of the border between India and Pakistan at Wagah, about halfway between Amritsar, Punjab, and Lahore, Pakistan. Such an opening would help the farmers of Punjab to get higher prices for their produce than the less-than-subsistence prices the Indian government pays them. It would also make it much easier for Sikhs to make religious pilgrimages to the birthplace of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak, in Nankana Sahib, which is also in Pakistan.

Chief Minister Singh is right. The border should be opened. This would be a significant step towards peace in the region. It would greatly reduce the need for India and Pakistan to expend exorbitant resources on their military rivalry. Instead, the cross-border contacts would strengthen the emerging relationship between the two countries.

Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to call on both the governments of India and Pakistan to open this border. Let the people, money, and ideas flow freely.

By opening the border at Wagah, India would be able to begin to end its repression that has claimed the lives of over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 300,000 Christians since 1976, over 89,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of other minority people.

This repression must end if India is to be taken seriously as a member of the international community. We should cut off India's aid and trade until such time as it respects human rights. Opening the border at Wagah would be a first step. We should also go on record in support of all people in South Asia enjoying the basic democratic right to self determination.

Mr. Speaker, I am inserting the press release from the Council of Khalistan into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Council of Khalistan]

OPEN WAGAH BORDER FOR TRADE

WASHINGTON, DC, September 10, 2004.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today endorsed the demand of Captain Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab, to open the border at Wagah, about halfway between Amritsar and Lahore. This would allow direct trade between Punjab and Pakistan.

“The distance between Amritsar and Lahore is only about 35 miles, less than the distance between Washington and Baltimore in the United States,” Dr. Aulakh said. “Why not allow trade between these neighbors?,” he asked. “Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is to be praised for asking to open this border,” said Dr. Aulakh. “His stand will help keep the fires of freedom lit in the Sikh Nation,” he added. “This is more than all his Akali and Congress predecessors have done for the people of Punjab,” Dr. Aulakh noted. “We fully support opening this border,” he said. “This is the wise thing for Punjab and the Sikh Nation,” he added. “It is another step forward for the freedom and self-determination of the Sikh Nation. It will help secure the prosperity of the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan.”

“Opening trade through the border at Wagah will bring peace in the subcontinent,” said Dr. Aulakh. “This will enable the farmers of Punjab to get higher prices for their products and help Pakistan to overcome its shortages,” he said. “If India truly cares about the well-being of the people, it must open the border at Wagah immediately” Dr. Aulakh also called for bus service across the border so that visitors can more easily visit the birthplace of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru, at Nankana Sahib. “We are the same people. The same language is spoken on both sides of the border. Opening this border benefits everybody and it is much better to open the border than to spend all this time and money constantly preparing for war,” he said.

Khalistan is the independent Sikh homeland declared on October 7, 1987. It has been under Indian occupation since then. When India became independent, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were to receive their own state, but the weak and ignorant Sikh leaders of the time were tricked into staying with India on the promise that they would have “the glow of freedom” and no law affecting the Sikhs would pass without their consent. Sikhs ruled an independent and sovereign Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the countries of the world at that time. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. The Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland.

“If India will not open this border, it is clear that there is no place for Sikhs in India,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Sardar Atinder Pal Singh's question of 14 years ago is still the question facing the Sikh Nation: Why don't we liberate Khalistan? As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar, said, ‘If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh’,” Dr. Aulakh noted.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs “worse than a genocide.” According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984!

“We must move forward with the cause of Sikh freedom,” Dr. Aulakh said. “Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice,” said Dr. Aulakh. “India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia,” Dr. Aulakh said. “We must free Khalistan now.”

ASSAULT WEAPON BAN REAUTHORIZATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House for five minutes.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a crisis situation in America—and here in Congress. On Monday the assault weapon ban bill expired at midnight and to date there has been no indication from this Republican controlled Congress that this important legislation will be reauthorized, let alone addressed, during this session.

This is unacceptable. It is unfathomable to me that Congress and this administration would let this landmark legislation merely expire.

In 1994, Congress came together with the leadership of then President Clinton to pass the Assault Weapons Ban legislation that banned the possession, transfer, or further domestic manufacture of semiautomatic assault weapons for ten years.

The legislation has had documented success.

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that since 1994 the annual amount of gun related violence has declined by 70%. Unfortunately, tonight, we are on the cusp of taking a major step backwards with regard to protecting our citizens.

Prior to 1994, gun violence, especially among our children was off the charts. The number of homicides committed annually with a firearm by persons in the 14- to 24-year-old age group increased by 173% from 1985 to 1993.

Physicians, school teachers, police officers, mothers, fathers, Republicans and Democrats alike have all called my office this past week, and I'm sure many of my colleagues, and asked why the Republican controlled Congress has not done their job in protecting the American people, our children, our schools and our communities?

Nationally, 70% of the American people have spoken and their message is loud and clear—we need to extend the Assault Weapons Ban.

The National Association of Police Organizations, the National Coalition of Public Safety Officers both support reauthorizing this legislation. My chief of police in Los Angeles strongly supports reauthorizing this legislation.

Now is not the time to make it easier for criminals and terrorists to get their hands on assault weapons. We live in a different world, a more violent world. Much has changed since 1994.

We have been attacked as a country and as a people. Now more than ever we must make it more difficult for those who want to harm us to get their hands on weapons that have the potential for mass killing.

On Saturday, our country recognized the third anniversary of the horrific September 11th terrorist attacks.

Since that tragic day our Nation has waged an on-going war on terrorism, invaded Iraq with the intent of disarming Saddam Hussein, yet tonight we do not even blink in allowing weapons capable of mass killing back on our streets and in our communities.

We have created a Department of Homeland Security to protect the home front, our communities and our citizens.

At the same time, we are asking more from our community's police forces, while making huge cuts to the COPS program.

Our brave men and women who protect our communities are doing more with less. They are now our first responders, our last defense against a terrorist attack, all while they continue to do their job of protecting our communities. Our community's law enforcement have their hands full. We do not need to tie an arm behind their backs as they lead the fight on terror on the home front and continue to keep our communities safe.

This Administration, the Department of Homeland Security along with the Department

of Justice has gone to great lengths to create avenues in which to alert the American people that they are in danger.

The Department of Homeland Security has created an elaborate color alert system . . . red, orange, yellow, blue and green . . . to alert our citizens that they are in danger.

There has been much debate on how the administration chooses to use this new alert system or what is the criteria that causes the threat level to rise to red—well, tonight we are witnessing an example of an elevated threat level and it is coming from within our communities.

Our local law enforcement officials will now be on constant high alert because of this administration's inability to reauthorize the assault weapon ban bill. We cannot have inaction from the Bush Administration—we must have action to protect our citizens and our families.

IN SUPPORT OF KANSAS-ARMENIA PARTNERSHIP DAY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Armenian-American who has chosen Kansas as his home, and is tirelessly devoted to bringing Kansas and Armenia closer together. Alex Kotoyantz, now a resident of Junction City, Kansas, has worked with Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius to have June 18 designated as Kansas-Armenia Partnership Day.

The Kansas National Guard State Partnership Program has allowed Kansans to travel to Armenia twice for the purposes of assisting with peacekeeping operations as well as health and medical operations. As a former Soviet republic that has faced tragic ethnic conflict, Armenia is in need of assistance. Kansans can and are providing valuable aid.

I would like to include in the RECORD Governor Sebelius's proclamation that declares June 18 Kansas-Armenia Partnership Day. It reads as follows:

“Whereas, The National Guard's State Partnership Program has achieved outstanding success in establishing a military-to-military association and in improving security cooperation between the United States and partner countries; and

Whereas, Kansas is proud to partner with Armenia in military-to-military, military-to-civilian, and civilian-to-civilian contacts and development; and

Whereas, The Kansas National Guard hopes that this endeavor will foster goodwill between Kansas and Armenia and achieve a secure, prosperous and dignified future for the citizens of Armenia; and

Whereas, Armenia's Deputy Minister of Defense and the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense signed the Bi-Lateral Affairs Agreement at the close of the Bi-Lateral Defense Consultations, June 13-18, 2003; and

Whereas, Kansas is grateful for the contributions of Armenian Americans who have chosen Kansas as their adopted homeland; they have employed wisdom, courage and centuries-old traditions to enrich the character of our state;

Now, therefore, I, Kathleen Sebelius, Governor of the State of Kansas, salute the mod-

ern nation of Armenia and Armenians everywhere, and do hereby proclaim June 18, 2004, as Kansas-Armenia Partnership Day in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance. Our state and the Armenian nation stand together, with our partnership of peace, prosperity and freedom.”

I am proud that my state has taken this initiative, and I will continue to support the Kansas National Guard in its partnership with Armenia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453 and 454. If present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 446, 447, 448, 449, 452, 453 and 454 and “nay” on rollcall votes 444, 445, 450 and 451.

IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE FOGLE KEAHEY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, on July 2, 2004, an esteemed writer and community supporter, Florence Fogle Keahey, died in Bonham, TX.

Florence Fogle Keahey was a noted writer in Fannin County. Born and raised on a farm near Ivanhoe, Florence quickly developed a love of the written word. She won her first prize at the age of 10, and she had several of her poems published in high school. Florence enrolled in the Correspondence School of the Newspaper Institute of America and was a reporter for many years with the Sherman Democrat. She wrote several articles, poems and stories for newspapers in Bonham, Sherman, Denison, and Dallas.

While her writing skills were impressive, she also devoted herself to serving the community of Fannin County. She was an organizing regent for the George Blakey Daughters of the American Revolution, a charter member of the D. Rowlett Chapter of Daughters of the Republic of Texas, a member of the Bonham Womens' Club, Iris Society, Texas League of Women Voters, Poetry Society of Texas, and the Democratic Women's Club of Fannin County, and president of the Ivanhoe Community Center. Florence also served Fannin County as its treasurer for 28 years.

Florence is survived by her daughter, Dottie Keahey Davis, grandchildren, Leasa Liles, Mitch Scott Davis and his wife, Melissa Lance Davis. Florence was also the loving grandmother of 5 great-grandchildren, and friend to a number of nieces and nephews.

Florence will be long remembered as a consummate community supporter. While she has left her home, her writings will live on as a testament to her intelligence and love for the citizens of Fannin County and Texas. On behalf of her many friends and fans, I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay our last respects to this beloved woman—Florence Fogle Keahey.

HONORING MO FELLING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. Mo Felling for attaining the honor of being the longest serving skilled trades committeeman in the history of UAW Local 599 in Flint, MI. On September 18, 2004, the UAW local 599 members will honor Mr. Felling during their annual Walter Reuther award ceremony.

Mo Felling began his leadership career with in UAW Local 599 in 1977 when he was elected to the post of alternative committeeman. In 1980 he was elected to the post of committeeman, a position he has held successfully to this date. His impeccable service and love for his fellow members is commendable. He is committed to upholding the mission set forth by Mr. Walter Reuther; which is to help people, and ensuring human dignity and social justice for all who are employed within the manufacturing automobile industry. I salute Mr. Felling for his great attention to detail and on a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, many people have greatly benefited from the leadership and service of Mr. Mo Felling. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating him on obtaining his mark in history and in wishing him the very best in future endeavors.

HONORING XAVIER CORTADA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the generous volunteer efforts and incredible artistic abilities of Mr. Xavier Cortada.

A Miami-based artist, attorney, and activist, Mr. Cortada has worked in collaboration with diverse groups across the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Africa to create pro-social community murals. I have been proud to observe his innovative works commissioned by such esteemed institutions as the White House, State Department, World Bank, Florida Capitol, and the International AIDS Conferences in Geneva and Durban.

Xavier's commitment to volunteer work around the world is not only commendable, but inspirational as well. He has been the rightful recipient of several prestigious awards, including the "Millenium International Volunteer Award" from the U.S. Department of State/USA Today and the "Florida International Volunteer Corps 1999 Outstanding Achievement Award".

It is my pleasure to recognize the contributions that Xavier continues to make to both our local communities and people worldwide.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the amazing dedication of Mr. Xavier Cortada.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESERVISTS' EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 2004

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reservists' Employment Act of 2004. Due to the limited time commitment typical of an inactive reserve member, most of these men and women sustain full-time careers outside of their military service. Although many of them serve their country in federal service positions, most of our reservists are employed by private industry. While most employers should be familiar with the responsibilities of our reservists, the War on Terror has greatly altered the nature of activation, and, in most cases, increased the frequency of deployment.

Since the War on Terror began, the fundamental organization of our reserves has changed dramatically and will continue to do so as the war progresses. With increasing unpredictability in deployment, the stability of a reservist's participation in their civilian jobs has too been altered. As many employers rely heavily on their reservist employees, their temporary absence often proves detrimental to these businesses. Although current law prohibits employers from terminating these reservists during activation, this provision does not correct the potential uncertainties employers may harvest regarding the capabilities of a reservist employee.

During their tenure in the armed forces, our reservists acquire several personal attributes that private employers find imperative in today's business world. While serving in the armed services, these men and women consistently demonstrate a high level of adaptability; the ability to work within a team; a strong work ethic; and, more often than not, exemplary leadership qualities.

Alongside these attributes, these men and women further illustrate their dedication and hard work by sustaining both reservist and civilian employment simultaneously. Given their exemplary character and training, we cannot give private industry any justification for not hiring these men and women. As some of the most well trained and productive members of our workforce, our reservists' credentials should promote their employment, not inhibit it.

In response to the need to preserve private industry opportunities for our reservists, and to further support their employers, I am honored to introduce the Reservists' Employment Act of 2004. It is my strong belief that our reservists provide some of the most valuable service both within and outside of our armed services. Now more than ever, we must show our support for their dedication, and, in turn, those private industries that support our troops.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND DR. JOHN L. ASHBY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a true public servant, a man of God

and a trusted and loved friend to many, the Reverend Dr. John L. Ashby.

Reverend Ashby dedicated his life to serving others. He first answered the call to service as a young man when he proudly entered the U.S. Army during the Korean war. He later attended and graduated from Norfolk State University, from the United Christian College as valedictorian with a bachelor of theology degree and from the Baltimore Bible College with a doctorate of divinity degree.

Reverend Ashby served on numerous state and local boards, commissions, and associations throughout his life, and continued to challenge the status quo and strived to improve the lives of his fellow man. To Reverend Ashby there was no mountain too high and no challenge too overwhelming; he knew no strangers and cared for everyone. In addition to caring for his church family, Reverend Ashby was also a loving father.

While Reverend Ashby's journey with us has ended, I know that his legacy of selfless service will continue to shine as an example to future generations of how one man can make a profound difference.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF HISTORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hungarian Presbyterian Church, in the Borough of Wharton, Morris County, NJ, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On October 3, 2004, the good citizens of Wharton are celebrating the Hungarian Presbyterian Church's 100th anniversary.

The first idea of a Hungarian church in Wharton was initiated in 1904 by a small group of Hungarians who had recently come from Hungary and were anxious to hear the Word of God in their native language. Before they had their own sanctuary, two local churches allowed them to worship there.

The church was completed 2 years later, and a thanksgiving service was held on September 16, 1906.

For the next 20 years, the congregation was served mainly by theologians from Bloomfield Seminary, but on March 1, 1926, Reverend John Dezso accepted the call and served the church with dedication and distinction for almost 30 years. In addition to preaching, he was responsible for maintaining the Hungarian culture. Some of the present congregants still remember the little poems, songs, and verses they had learned as children from Reverend Dezso.

Until the 1950s services were only conducted in Hungarian, but the children of the immigrants as well as some of the spouses requested English services as well, and the church has been bi-lingual ever since.

Perhaps the most devastating time for the church community happened on January 2, 1982, when some young people broke into the church and set it on fire. Fortunately, the Wharton and Mine Hill Fire Departments responded quickly, and because the fire was contained, the building was saved. However, the interior of the church was destroyed. Thanks to a lot of hard work and the inspirational leadership of Reverend Ernest M. Kosa,

the church was rebuilt in 10 months. The church community celebrated with a service of Thanksgiving.

The Church Community is very thankful for their present pastor, Charles Olah, CLP, Certified Lay Pastor, who conducts services every Sunday in both English and Hungarian. Without him and their wonderful congregation, they would not be able to do the great job that they do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hungarian Presbyterian Church on the celebration of its 100 years serving the western part of Morris County.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MT. PLEASANT COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the Mt. Pleasant Community Church near Stayton, OR, a historic church that has served as a place of worship since its construction in 1854. As the oldest building west of the Rocky Mountains that has been continuously used as a church, Mt. Pleasant Community Church will celebrate its 150 years of history on Saturday.

The permanence of this church is remarkable considering the massive changes that have occurred in the surrounding world since it was built. When Mt. Pleasant Community Church was founded, Oregon was a sparsely populated territory that had not yet become a state; Abraham Lincoln was a former Member of Congress who had retired from politics to return to law; and the union had not yet been torn apart by the Civil War. Over the church's 150-year history, our country has seen amazing technological change, from the Industrial Revolution and the invention of the car and the airplane to the rise of information technology and the birth of the Internet. And the position the United States occupies in the world has changed as well: During this century and a half that Mt. Pleasant has stood in the Willamette Valley, empires have risen and fallen, and the United States has risen to a position of unparalleled power in the world.

Yet despite all these changes, Mt. Pleasant has remained, one small church serving the spiritual and social needs of the community. Even as members have come and gone, the church remains, both as a building and an institution, as a place of worship and fellowship, a vital part of the spiritual life of the community.

CONGRATULATING NEW PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER SHAUKAT AZIZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Pakistan has installed a new Prime Minister, Shaukat Aziz. His installation was reported in the news-

papers September 2. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Aziz on his new position.

Mr. Aziz takes the helm in Pakistan at a critical time for the people and nations of South Asia. I wish him well in his time as Prime Minister and I hope that he will dedicate himself to pursuing peace in the subcontinent.

The best way to achieve peace in South Asia, Mr. Speaker, is to work for self-determination for everyone in the region. Only by allowing everyone in the subcontinent to enjoy this cornerstone of democracy can all the peoples and nations live in peace, freedom, and prosperity.

I would also urge Mr. Aziz to work for a more open border so that Sikhs and Muslims, as well as members of other minorities, can trade and travel freely and raise their standard of living by doing so. This will be good for Pakistan and for India.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued a press release congratulating Prime Minister Aziz, which I intend to insert into the RECORD.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER SHAUKAT AZIZ

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 10, 2004.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today congratulated the new Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shaukat Aziz, on his ascension to the position.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister Aziz and wish his government well," Dr. Aulakh said. "I hope that this will be a step forward for peace in South Asia," he said. "Prime Minister Aziz has done excellent work on Pakistan's finances," said Dr. Aulakh. "We are sure that he can bring that wisdom and expertise to all areas of life in his country," he added.

"Prime Minister Aziz must stand firm, as President Musharraf has done, in supporting the interests of freedom for the oppressed people in South Asia," said Dr. Aulakh. "We urge him to work to open the border, enhance trade in the border regions, establish peaceful relations, and assist the cause of freedom, not just in occupied Kashmir, but wherever people are struggling to be free," he added. "We look forward to easy passage to visit the birthplace of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak, in Nankana Sahib."

"Only when all people and nations in South Asia have freedom and self-determination can the subcontinent live in peace, prosperity, and dignity," said Dr. Aulakh. "Prime Minister Aziz has influence by virtue of his position," he said. "We urge him to use it for the benefit of the people of Pakistan and all the people of the subcontinent by supporting freedom and self-determination."

The Council of Khalistan was constituted to lead the struggle to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland which declared its independence on October 7, 1987. It is the government pro tempore of Khalistan. Khalistan has been under Indian occupation since then. India has sent over 500,000 troops to Punjab, Khalistan, and over 700,000 to neighboring Kashmir to suppress the independence movements there. Yet India is on the verge of collapse. As former Home Minister L.K. Advani said that "if Kashmir goes, India goes."

At the time of India's independence, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were supposed to receive their own sovereign state, but the weak and ignorant Sikh leaders of the time were tricked into staying with India on the promise that they would have "the glow of freedom" and no law affecting the Sikhs would pass without their

consent. That promise was broken immediately after independence was achieved.

Sikhs ruled an independent and sovereign Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the countries of the world at that time. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

"Sardar Atinder Pal Singh's question of 14 years ago is still the question facing the Sikh Nation: Why don't we liberate Khalistan?" Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" he noted.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India is holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984!

"We must move forward with the cause of Sikh freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 757, which condemns the horrific attacks on both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon September 11, 2001, and reaffirms our nation's commitment in protecting our land from terrorists.

The events of three years ago will be forever etched in the memories of the American people. The horrible images from downtown New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania, brought sorrow and sadness as a nation collectively mourned the lives lost.

On this day, we salute the Pentagon employees who perished, the inhabitants of the World Trade Center who had their lives snuffed out in a brutal act of terrorism, and the brave men of United flight 93, who sacrificed their lives to save the lives of people they had never even met.

Mr. Speaker, even as a nation mourned, the collective resolve and faith of Americans nationwide began the process of rebuilding, and we continue that process today.

America is strong and its people are committed to the values of liberty. Even today, Americans nationwide are helping the families and children of those killed three years ago.

Mr. Speaker, our nation is engaged in a war against terrorism that continues to this day, and the resolve and faith of the American people will ensure that our nation remains forever strong.

We in Congress continue to pray for all affected by the horrible events of three years ago and will continue to be vigilant on the war on terror. May God bless all the families and their loved ones, and may God bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SERVICE OF ANN JEMISON

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative JOHN CONYERS and myself, I wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to Ann Jemison, who is retiring this week after almost 30 years of service to the House of Representatives. We also wish to extend our very best wishes to Ann, on her upcoming wedding on September 25, 2004.

Ann hails from the Land of Lincoln and began her career on the Hill as an Assistant Manager and then Manager in the House Restaurant System from 1975 through 1994. She moved into the position of Staff Assistant/Receptionist, first, for the Committee on Public Works and Transportation in 1994, and then with the Committee on the Judiciary Committee in 1995.

Ann is the first smiling face you see when you enter the Committee's front door and the friendly and knowledgeable voice you hear when you call our office.

Mr. Speaker, Ann has served the House Judiciary Committee, the Congress and the American people over all these years with commitment, dedication and integrity. We thank her and want her to know that she will be missed.

**JOBS ACTION TEAM'S
COMPETITIVENESS AGENDA**

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the focus of the Jobs Action Team's "Competitiveness Agenda" this week is ending lawsuit abuse, and with good reason. The United States is the lawsuit capital of the world, and this puts American companies at a competitive disadvantage.

Frivolous lawsuits are costing American businesses \$129 billion each year. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce found the greatest impact is on small businesses—which contribute three-fourths of all new jobs, which face additional costs of \$17,000 each year. This is unacceptable.

The House of Representatives has responded by passing numerous legal reform bills. H.R. 4571, introduced by Representative LAMAR SMITH, passed the House yesterday. This bill provides for appropriate sanctions against those who file junk lawsuits. The Senate must act now.

Americans should not have to fear life-ruining lawsuits. This should not be a country where individuals can file cases to get money wherever they can—many with no intention of going to court. Let's end lawsuit abuse now.

LIABILITY COSTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

FAST FACTS

"America's small businesses are the driving force behind our economic achievements, and the U.S. Chamber is proud to support and represent this country's small business owners."—Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The total annual cost of the tort system to U.S. businesses (large and small) is \$129 billion.

Small businesses with \$10 million or less in annual revenue bear 68 percent of that cost, paying \$88 billion a year.

Very small businesses (\$1 million or less in annual revenue) bear 26 percent of the business cost, paying \$33 billion a year.

A small business with \$10 million annual revenue pays about \$150,000 a year in tort liability costs—money that could be used to hire additional employees.

A small business with \$1 million annual revenue pays about \$17,000 a year in tort liability costs—money that could be used to expand or improve health benefits for employees.

Very small businesses (\$1 million or less in annual revenue) pay 44 percent of their tort liability costs (\$15 billion) out-of-pocket, as opposed to through insurance.

There are over 4.5 million U.S. small businesses with \$10 million or less in annual revenue.

There are about 3.8 million U.S. small businesses with \$1 million or less in annual revenue.

Small businesses contribute approximately three-quarters of all new jobs added to the economy.

The Liability Costs for Small Business study was conducted for the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform by NERA Economic Consulting.

**HONORING THE NATIONAL
GUARD'S SERVICE IN WINNING
THE WAR ON TERROR**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President George W. Bush praised the valor of guardsmen and reservists fighting to win the War on Terror. President Bush is the 19th former guardsman to be president and he rightly pointed out that the National Guard is America's oldest fighting force. The Guard has played a vital role in all of our major conflicts, and especially in recent decades fighting in Vietnam, the Gulf War, and the War on Terror.

The Guard is also called on in times of national emergency to provide invaluable support to local authorities. After the attacks of September 11th, thousands of Guardsmen across the country voluntarily stepped forward to help. When hurricanes strike our shores, it is the Guard that provides necessary communications and rescue services.

As a proud 31-year veteran of the South Carolina Army National Guard, with two sons in the Guard one of whom is serving in Iraq, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking all of the men and women serving in the Guard and Reserves today for protecting American families in the War on Terror.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

IN HONOR OF MISS IDAHO 2004

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 2004 Miss Idaho, Elizabeth Margaret Barchas of Boise. Elizabeth will be proudly representing the Gem State in this weekend's Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, NJ.

Elizabeth received her bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She then studied abroad and received her master's degree from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and was a Fulbright Scholar. She has been accepted to Harvard Law school; however, she has deferred her matriculation for one year to pursue her duties as Miss Idaho. Elizabeth's platform is understanding individuals with disabilities, and I am very proud of her continued commitment of community service for Idaho and across the globe.

I am confident that Elizabeth will do an outstanding job in representing Idaho, as I am pulling for her to be crowned the next Miss America. I wish Elizabeth, and the entire Barchas family all the best for this weekend's pageant.

INTRODUCTION OF H.J. RES. 104

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced the House counterpart to Senator HATCH's constitutional amendment (S.J. Res. 15) allowing those who have been citizens of the United States for at least 20 years to serve as President and Vice President.

We all agree that constitutional amendments should not be taken lightly and should only be considered when the betterment of this country is in question. It is my strong belief that "betterment" is what would be achieved if such an amendment is adopted.

The reasons the founding fathers added this clause to the constitution are archaic at best. The main rationale was to protect the U.S. from undue foreign influence from the election of a foreign leader in the executive office. This mindset prevailed not long after the founders freed the country from the control of a foreign body. Interestingly, however, in what is called "the Hamilton loophole," they exempted their own generation from the burdens of the "natural born" requirement. Seven of the 39 signers of the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787 were foreign born, as well as 8 of America's original 81 Senators and Representatives, 3 of our first 10 Supreme Court justices, 4 of our first 6 secretaries of the treasury, and one of our first 3 secretaries of war. Most, if not all, of these immigrants were eligible to serve as president, since the constitution exempted all those who were citizens at the time the constitution was adopted from the "natural born" requirement.

Today, the offices of President and Vice President are the only offices where a person who is not U.S. born is disqualified from serving. Is this still appropriate when we have

seen great leaders, after a lifetime of service to this country, be unable to represent the citizens of this country?

Today we have many significant political leaders who cannot be president simply because they were not born here. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is the most famous example, but what about Michigan's Governor, Jennifer Granholm, who came to the United States from Canada at the age of four? Or Congressman Pete Hoekstra, who came to this country when he was a mere three years old and has been given the responsibility of being Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence? Congressman Hoekstra oversees the intelligence community in a post-9/11 United States and yet regardless of his lifetime of service, he cannot be President.

I hope my colleagues will agree with me that it is long past time for the "natural born" requirement to change. Respect for the many legal immigrants who have made our country great should lead us to conclude that once they have been U.S. citizens for 20 years they should no longer be constitutionally disqualified from serving in our nation's highest offices.

H.J. RES. 104

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission for ratification:

"ARTICLE—

"A person who is a citizen of the United States, who has been a citizen of the United States for at least 20 years, and who is otherwise eligible to hold the Office of the President, is not ineligible to hold that Office by reason of not being a native born citizen of the United States."

RECOGNIZING PAST AND PRESENT
MEMBERS OF FERNALD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the current and former members of the Fernald Fire Department for their distinguished service in protecting the former nuclear site and the surrounding community for the past 50 years.

Fernald was a major hub in America's nuclear weapons complex during the Cold War. Located about 25 miles north of Cincinnati, in Crosby Township, the site's primary charge was to produce metal uranium—an important and potentially dangerous job demanding skill and courage. The firefighters serving at Fernald share these same admirable qualities.

For the last half-century, the department's men and women—professionals and volunteers—have provided outstanding emergency response service to the Fernald site and the residents of Crosby Township. The department responds to hundreds of medical emergencies and house-fires every year—they made about 300 runs last year alone.

Mr. Speaker, firefighters, like the men and women of the Fernald Fire Department, have always played an important role in keeping Americans safe. That role has never been more vital or deserving of our admiration and respect than in the post-September 11 world. Whether in New York City or a rural community in southwestern Ohio the sacrifice and bravery of America's firefighters is on display every day—running toward the smoke and flames. Saving lives.

Later this year, the Fernald Fire Department will close its doors one last time after a job well done. They will leave behind their equipment and their service to a grateful community.

I want to thank the past and present members of the Fernald Fire Department for their dedication and sacrifice in making Fernald and Crosby Township safer places to live and work.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGUDAS
ACHIM CONGREGATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate a congregation in my district celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia has been a fixture in Northern Virginia as a place of worship and a vibrant community. In conjunction with their 90th anniversary, the men and women of Agudas Achim are taking the opportunity to honor the military veterans who are part of their congregation and its extended family.

Since the Revolutionary War, Jewish servicemen and women have served our nation proudly. Whether they served as members of the infantry, pilots, doctors, nurses or chaplains, Jewish soldiers have proudly defended democracy throughout the world while protecting the freedoms of all Americans. Today they continue to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan to bring stability and hope to the people and region. Throughout the years, Jewish Americans have fought with great honor and distinction.

Responding to the call for service, Jewish Americans have served in the military in greater percentages than their percent of the population. They have shown great dedication and love for their nation and the rights that are within it. They recognize that freedoms, such as the freedom of religion, are not universal values granted to every person. Many of our ancestors, especially those of Jewish Americans, came to this country to escape religious tyranny. Today, this same drive that brought us together, helps us fight to gain these same freedoms for people throughout the world.

We remember those who fearlessly paid the ultimate price in defending the United States during times of war, and recall the sacrifice made by those who bravely fought and returned home. We also keep in our thoughts those who continue to serve our nation proudly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Together these men and women have helped preserve the freedoms that we cherish. While many have not made it home, I am certain there is com-

fort in knowing they perished fighting for their beliefs and for the protection of their families and friends back home.

I would like to thank all those Jewish men and women and their families who have served our nation. Their courage has helped preserve basic human rights for people throughout the world. I also thank Agudas Achim Congregation for paying tribute to these veterans, and bringing attention to their selflessness in defense of freedom. Agudas Achim has been at the forefront of defending these freedoms and, in doing so, has made Northern Virginia a better place to live.

TED VELEZ: REMEMBERING A
HERO OF EL BARRIO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to the late Ted Velez of East Harlem, one of New York's finest sons who passed away August 6th 2004. He was a community leader whose tremendous achievements will continue to better the lives of the residents of East Harlem long into the future. Mr. Velez had a vision of New York City that saw equality across the board and included fair and affordable housing for all New Yorkers, regardless of color or social standing.

Working in El Barrio as a young social worker, Mr. Velez helped found the East Harlem Tenants Council in 1962, which boasted a network of progressive building captains who monitored building safety and overall residential well being. Two years later he championed a series of rent strikes on East 123rd Street, effectively forcing landlords to make necessary repairs in East Harlem residential buildings.

In the summer of 1971, after trudging for more than six years through city, state and federal bureaucracy; Mr. Velez won federal approval to transform the entire city block between 122nd and 123rd Streets. The project was funded with \$42 million dollars allotted from the Department of Housing and Urban Development Department, the largest allocation up to that time for a single community project. Mr. Velez's efforts resulted in comfortable, affordable housing for 656 low to moderate-income families in what is now known as the Taino Towers, giving East Harlem residents opportunities that many had believed to be impossible.

Throughout his accomplished life Mr. Velez strived at the forefront of progressive social change as a political activist, yet was able to work productively within the political mainstream with leaders of both political parties. He marched in civil rights demonstrations with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the South, where he helped to organize voter registration drives. In his twenties, he supported Senator Bobby Kennedy and also worked closely with Mayor John V. Lindsay's administration. He was a close associate of former Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton and Basil Paterson, two of New York's most influential Democratic leaders.

Born in Puerto Rico on December 29th 1938, Mr. Velez moved to East Harlem at the age of six. Working on behalf of the most needy, he managed to achieve the status of a

leader without forgetting his humble origins. He did not look at the world in terms of color or creed but appreciated and celebrated all cultures while speaking five languages with near fluency. His activism was motivated by his deep beliefs in the dignity of humanity and the tenets of the Civil Rights Movement.

Ted Velez will be remembered as a hero not only in El Barrio but also in the great City of New York. His presence and noble determination will be sorely missed. Mr. Velez is survived by his wife Linda, son Jon, daughter Judie, two brothers and two grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING FATHER JOHN TERRY ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE CATHOLIC YOUTH CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I call the attention of the House of Representatives to the Very Reverend John Terry, who will celebrate his 25th year as director of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, tonight.

Father Terry is a Scranton native who attended St. Michael's elementary school in Jessup. He went on to Scranton Preparatory High School, where he was influenced by the Jesuit priests who taught him. It was at a school retreat in Easton, Pennsylvania, that he first expressed his interest in the priesthood. He credits Father Burner, SJ, Father John Dugan, SJ and Scholastic Jesuit Robert Waldman for helping him explore the priesthood as a vocation.

Father Terry studied different religious communities and their missions, but realized he felt the call to do parish work in the Scranton Diocese. Upon his high school graduation in 1967, Father Terry applied to the Diocese of Scranton. He met with Monsignor Thomas Horan, director of the Saint Pius X Seminary.

Father Terry was accepted as a pre-seminarian and began studies at the University of Scranton. After two years at the University, Father Terry continued on at Saint Pius X. Father Terry recalls that when he was assigned to his room, he knelt and prayed, saying "Oh God, if this is your will, help me."

Monsignor Andrew McGowan was in charge at the Seminary, assisted by Father Banish, Father Kelly, Father Bergamo, Father Louis and Father Walsh.

In the Spring of 1971, Father Terry was sent to Our Lady of Angels Theological Seminary in Albany, New York. Halfway during his second semester, the Seminary closed because of budgetary shortfalls. Father Terry then went on to St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York.

In May 1974, Father Terry was ordained as a deacon and assigned to a small community in Ellicottville, New York—an assignment that helped him understand what parish life really meant. Father Terry was then assigned to the Diocese of Buffalo Seminary in East Aurora, New York. In that year, Father Terry spent a good deal of time in the Diocese of Scranton.

Bishop J. Carroll McCormack of Scranton assigned Father Terry as a deacon to St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception

in Wilkes-Barre. He served with Monsignor Joseph Madden as pastor and mentor.

Father Terry was ordained on May 2, 1975 by Bishop McCormack in the Diocese of Scranton. He was assigned to St. Mary's in Wilkes-Barre. During this time, Father Terry's mother was diagnosed with cancer. She died a few months after her son was ordained, and the parishioners at St. Mary's helped Father Terry during this tragic time. Father Terry also began working with children, which was a great boost for his morale.

In 1979, Monsignor John Dougherty, Chancellor of the Diocese, asked Father Terry to become director of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre and to serve as an assistant at St. Patrick's Parish in Wilkes-Barre. Working with young people and youth programs was a dream come true for Father Terry.

Father Terry also worked with GAR High School's football program, and was named "Our Angel in the Backfield" by the students he coached. After three years at St. Patrick's, he went to Holy Savior/St. Christopher Churches.

Father Terry enjoyed devoting his time and energy to working with troubled youth and helping to solve their problems. The assignment at the CYC also afforded Father Terry the opportunity to work with Tony English, Jr., executive director of the CYC. The success of the CYC is a result of the wonderful working relationship between the two.

In December 1990, Father Terry was assigned on a temporary basis to Sugar Notch to minister to the Churches of Saints Peter and Paul and St. Charles Boromeo until Father Tom Hudak returned from the Persian Gulf. In 1992, Father Terry was named Pastor of all the churches in Sugar Notch, including Holy Family.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent a man who has devoted his life to making the lives of others, especially young people, better. Please join me in congratulating Father Terry today on 25 years of service.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ GABRIEL RAMÓN CASTILLO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Gabriel Ramón Castillo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ramón Castillo is a teacher by training. As a teacher, he was interested in helping to instruct and inform his impressionable students. After learning about the propaganda mandated by the regime, he was unable to continue with the charade of manipulating young minds with lies instead of truth. Because of his strong belief in truth and democracy, Mr. Ramón Castillo eventually became the director of the Independent Culture and Democracy Institute. He also began to work as an independent journalist, chronicling the reality of deprivation and misery that truthfully characterizes the totalitarian regime.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Ramón Castillo was repeatedly subjected to persecution and harassment by the regime from the beginning of his involvement in the

movement to peacefully create a free and democratic Cuba. On March 19, 2003, Mr. Ramón Castillo was arrested as part of the dictatorship's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial he was sentenced to 20 years in the tyrant's sub human gulag.

It is unconscionable that any man can be sentenced to 20 years in the grotesquely inhuman quarters of Castro's gulag for a belief in democracy. Mr. Ramón Castillo is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that Mr. Ramón Castillo is languishing in the totalitarian gulag 90 miles from our shore simply because he believes in freedom and democracy. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of José Gabriel Ramón Castillo, and every prisoner of conscience suffering under the nightmare called the Castro regime.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 450, I was present, but the voting machine did not record me. I should have been recorded as a "yes."

THANKS TO JOE ZAWADSKI

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, every now and then nice things happen to those in need. This is just what happened to the students at Helms Middle School after Joe Zawadski visited the school and saw the terrible conditions that existed. Joe Zawadski made a command decision that the students deserved better and he and his company, Signature Properties, were going to do something about it.

With the support of Jim Ghielmetti, the owner of Signatures Properties, Helms was able to make major improvements to its safety, sanitation and playing field conditions. What a wonderful example for those who want to help improve the educational environment in our schools.

Thanks to Joe Zawadski and Signature Properties, the students at Helms Middle School will start the year in a safer and brighter learning environment. Thank you Joe Zawadski.

Mr. Speaker I would like to share with my colleagues a news story and editorial from the Contra Costa Times.

PICK UP A PAINT BRUSH

Signature Properties Vice President Joe Zwidski usually is responsible for developing the foundation of neighborhoods, building things from the ground up. Recently, however, he stepped in to help in the maintenance of a school in San Pablo, one of the

areas in which his Pleasanton company builds.

He donated supplies and his company's services to paint the exterior, repair the lawn; install sprinklers, and fix bathrooms and broken windows at Helms Middle School.

He looked at this dilapidated school—scheduled for overhauling from Measure D money and that he has tried to earmark his fees to West County School District for—and decided the school's needs shouldn't be put off. He said: "This is something we can do."

That's true. Good for you, Mr. Z. Now why didn't people right there in the community say that? Why didn't neighbors and parents do something? Do plumbers and painters and handypeople not have children going through the schools?

As schools throughout the area, throughout the state, wait for state funds or for local bond money, parents and businesses in the community could be giving money, supplies, time and skills to make sure their area schools aren't falling down, that their kids and their neighbors aren't going to schools that bring grown men to tears.

When the state or bond money comes, it will go further and more will get done in the long run. But in many cases, attention is needed now.

A decrepit school can have psychological connections and results. As Zawidski said, to kids in attendance at schools like that, "it's apparent no one cares about them."

That's how their young brains process it anyway. Then the kids in turn don't care about themselves and don't strive to get the benefits that a good education brings.

Parents and the community must be involved. They must be active in all aspects of youths' education. That means: making sure your kids do their homework, meeting their teachers, seeing that they are learning. It also means making sure money for schools is spent as it should be; it means volunteering so that teachers have help and extra curriculum programs remain available; and there is certainly no reason it shouldn't mean that every couple of years you pick up a paintbrush and a screwdriver, to keep the school up to par.

Our schools, all of them, can use the extra help.

SAN PABLO SCHOOL GETS UNEXPECTED GIFT
(By Jackie Burrell)

Developers don't often get to play hero, but a crumbling San Pablo middle school started this school year with a free facelift thanks to a Pleasanton company's Good Samaritan gesture.

And the builder didn't even toot its own horn afterwards.

Like any developer, Signature Properties coughed up the requisite developer fees to the West Contra Costa school district as it planned a new neighborhood of 3-bedroom homes and townhouses. Then Signature's vice president of forward planning Joe Zawidski stopped by Helms Middle School for a tour.

"We were disappointed with the state of the school," Zawidski said.

Helms principal Harriet MacLean was less circumspect. Zawidski nearly cried, she said, and then he made some calls.

Helms is on deck for a near-rebuilding under West Contra Costa schools' Measure D, a \$300 million bond measure voters passed in 2002 to renovate more than a dozen middle and high schools.

Signature, the same company currently embroiled in litigation with the Pleasanton School District over construction of Neal Elementary School, wanted its fees earmarked for improvements at Helms when the school was rebuilt, a two-year process expected to

begin in 2005. The company also offered to install a new playing field when it did landscape work at the development across the street.

Six weeks ago Zawidski and company owner Jim Ghielmetti couldn't stand it anymore.

"You know these kids are coming in now, this is their school and it's not right," said Zawidski. "The weeds were three feet, ceilings were falling down, the restrooms were not functional. It's not going to enrich those kids. It makes it apparent that no one cares about them. It's a tragedy."

Zawidski called MacLean then showed up with a construction crew to paint the school's exterior, install new spinklers and lawns, replace restroom faucets and repair every broken window.

"You would think he'd only be interested in curb appeal, but he replaced all the broken windows, even the one in the back, faucets in all the restrooms, all because he cares," MacLean said.

"San Pablo is a good community. This is just a way to reinvest in the community," said Zawidski. "This was something we could do and something we wanted to do."

REGARDING THE REINSTITUTION
OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the 1994 assault weapons ban has expired and our nation is again vulnerable to guns known to most in the law enforcement community as "the weapons of choice for criminals."

My bill would reinstate the repealed criminal provisions relating to assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and make America safer.

The House Republican leadership opposed reauthorizing the 1994 Assault Weapons Act and President Bush, though he had said he supported it, did nothing to help keep the law alive.

Indecisiveness. Flip-Flop. Isn't that what the other party calls "saying one thing and doing another"?

Because the President steadfastly refused to put his leadership—or lack thereof—where his mouth is and help renew the ban, it has expired without so much as even a vote in the House of Representatives.

From this Chamber, for the past 3 years, I have been highlighting the President's efforts on behalf of the rich and big corporations at the expense of working families and small businesses. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I once again must speak of the damage our President is inflicting on the average American.

There is no reason why we should let assault weapons back on the streets. Do people need an assault weapon to protect their home? No! Do people need an assault weapon to hunt? No! Do people need an assault weapon to target shoot? No! Semiautomatic weapons are killing machines with absolutely no positive value in any sensible community and lifting this ban has put these weapons of death back in the hands of criminals.

A Bureau of Justice Statistics survey published in November 2001 reported that almost 7 percent of State inmates and more than 9 percent of Federal inmates carried military-

style semiautomatic weapons in carrying out the crime for which they were convicted. In 1997, roughly 43 percent of inmates who carried a military-style semiautomatic or fully automatic weapon fired it and more than 25 percent of them killed or injured their victim.

Mr. Speaker, the expiration of the Assault Weapons Act favored gangs, terrorists, drug dealers, and other criminals, and put in danger my children and yours, and our heroes and protectors, the police officers.

Our local police are not prepared for the re-institution of assault weapons to our streets. The bulletproof vests that we give our police officers are no match for the guns that are going to be back out in our neighborhoods. And we are going to allow criminals to carry large-capacity clips with over 50 rounds, when our police officers can only respond with 10 to 15 rounds?

Every single law enforcement organization, including the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Sheriffs Association, supports our efforts to reinstitute the Assault Weapons Act. I would support my law enforcement officers, and the safety of our communities and of this Nation over any gun manufacturer any day.

President Bush sent America's youth unprotected—in unarmored HUMVEES and without bulletproof vests—to war in Iraq, and now has been instrumental in bringing back to America's neighborhoods weapons of war to threaten police officers and law abiding citizens.

Moreover, we know terrorists are now exploiting the weaknesses and loopholes in our gun laws. A terrorist training manual discovered by American soldiers in Afghanistan in 2001 advised al-Qaida members to buy assault weapons in the United States and use them against us.

The Assault Weapons Act has respected the rights of gun owners. Only criminals and terrorists have been kept from their guns of choice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SIDNEY
LANIER McFARLAND

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguish life of Sidney Lanier McFarland. Mr. McFarland, who retired in 1975 after 36 years honorable public service, passed away on August 12, 2004, at the age of 89.

Mr. McFarland served for 20 years as Staff Director for the U.S. House of Representatives Interior Committee from the 83rd through the 93rd Congresses. During that time, he coordinated the efforts that authorized and enacted 79 major water projects into law. These laws authorized the U.S. Department of the Interior to build dams and canals that stored and diverted water for use by agriculture, municipalities and industry. The projects made possible the large and productive habitation of arid and semiarid lands, laying the groundwork for the enormous growth that subsequently transpired in the western United States. Among the committee's accomplishments under Mr. McFarland's direction were the Colorado River Storage Project that included Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell; the Trinity River

Project Unit, San Luis Project Unit and Auburn-Folsom South Unit of the Central Valley Project in California; the Fryington-Arkansas Project in Colorado; the Garrison Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project in North Dakota; and the Colorado River Basin Project, which includes the Central Arizona Project.

Mr. McFarland also worked on 169 other pieces of legislation enacted into law. These included amendments to federal reclamation laws, compacts on interstate streams, authorization of the Saline Water Research Program, the Small Reclamation Projects Act, the Water Resources Planning Act, the Water Resources Research Act, and legislation relating to irrigation districts.

Mr. McFarland was born on March 25, 1915, in Georgia and grew up working on his family's farm. After earning a civil engineering degree at Georgia Tech, he worked for the Georgia State Highway Department before being called to active duty with the U.S. Army in 1941. He proudly served his country during World War II and many years after in the Officer Reserve Corps.

Mr. McFarland's military service is one of great honor and distinction. He was a member of the 551st Engineer Heavy Pontoon Battalion, initially assigned to General George Patton's Third Army. Under fire during Patton's rapid push across France into Germany, Mr. McFarland and his fellow soldiers courageously built several heavy pontoon bridges. In December 1944, the battalion was caught in the Battle of the Bulge, at which time the German army, holding everything east of the Rhine River, made a rapid breakthrough in an attempt to capture Antwerp. During the night of March 25, 1945, and part of the following day, Mr. McFarland's battalion completed the construction of a 1900-foot pontoon bridge across the swift-moving Rhine River, making it possible for the Allied Armies to cross and initiate the big push to end the war. As noted by Major General Inglis, Chief Engineer of the 21st Army Group, the Rhine River crossing was ". . . one of the great military accomplishments of this war."

Mr. McFarland, who was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Barbara, of Sun City West, Arizona; daughter Margie and her husband Robert Collins of Albuquerque, New Mexico; daughter Carol and her husband Bob Leone of Edgcomb, Maine; son Sid, Jr., of Dayton, Ohio; and son Christopher and his wife Lauren of Austin, Texas. He also has five grandchildren: Jennifer Collins, Lindsay and Sara Leone, and Renan and Shea McFarland.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying final tribute to a great American.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK RYAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patrick Ryan, a stalwart in education for the folks of southwest Michigan. Over the last 62 years, Pat has dedicated his life to the educating, mentoring, and training of local youth. Whether, as a teacher, counselor, principal, or athletic coach, Pat touched the

lives of every student who had the fortune of receiving his wisdom and tutelage.

Over his inspiring career the number of students, colleagues, and parents who benefited from Pat's devotion to education is immense and it would be an extremely difficult task to hear from all these folks. However, over the years a couple of themes have constantly been bountiful when speaking of Pat. For students, he was a leader who constantly taught that everyone has the chance and ability to make a difference—all one needs to do is always give 100 percent to any task, big or small. For his colleagues, he was the standard that all strived to reach. And for parents, he was the teacher who through example, demonstrated respect, kindness, and courtesy to their child.

Pat also shined and inspired in his life outside of the classroom. He and his wife have four children, but somehow over years found the time to take troubled children into their home and provide stability into their lives. He counseled women with troubled pregnancies, served on the Little League Board of Directors, and taught religious education. To list the accomplishments of a man like Pat is not an easy endeavor to undertake, and to be quite honest, not possible without feeling inadequate. He was a teacher who gave his all to the education and inspiration of his students, and was a man who dedicated his life to the betterment of his fellow citizen.

I can think of no better honor than to have a past student say that, "you were the reason why I chose to become an educator." Over the years Pat has received this testimonial time and time again, and I believe this is an exact statement of an amazing teacher and human being.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Ryan is simply "The Best."

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP IN BAY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating an important milestone. This weekend, Williams Township in Bay County, Michigan will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Williams Township is a small community, but a warm welcoming one, and should stand as an example to us all.

In the fall of 1854, Williams Township began its history in the same way as many communities in Michigan and throughout the country. A small party of six men visited the area, which was then uninhabited wilderness. Charles Bradford, John Gaffney, William Spafford, Charles Fitch, George W. Smock, and Lyman Brainard found the land inviting, and returned to Flint, Michigan to purchase the land they would shortly settle. On November 18th, 1854, John Gaffney felled the first tree in the area. It was his birthday, and Williams Township's.

In 1855, the Township was organized as a part of Midland County. Two years later, Williams, along with Hampton Township succeeded in persuading the Michigan State Leg-

islature to combine them into the new Bay County. Though there was much dispute over whether Midland and Saginaw County residents could vote on approving the new county, the State Supreme Court allowed it to go forward in 1858, and on August 10th, the new Bay County held its first board meeting.

Those early settlers of Williams Township were primarily farmers, and their numbers gradually increased. By 1869, the population had grown significantly, and the Township was reduced to its present size of 36 square miles. Today, the population is about 4,500 strong, with another 2,000 or so in the City of Auburn, which split from the Township in 1948. And though the largest employer now is Dow Corning Corporation, which has its world headquarters and a specialty materials plant in the Township, farming and agriculture remain a vital foundation to the Township's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I said that Williams Township is a warm community, and I can personally attest to that. The Township was part of the area added to my district after the 2000 census, and I have visited several times in order to get to know my new constituents. I held a town hall meeting in Auburn in February of 2003. I was impressed by their thoughtful questions and touched by their welcome to me as their new Representative.

Later, in October, I went back to Bay City Western High School to speak to an American Government class and to have lunch at the Williams Township Senior Center. Again I was impressed by the residents of the Township, young and old. I was and continue to be very proud to represent this fine community in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Williams Township and its residents on their first 150 years as a community and in wishing them well in their next 150 years.

HONORING THE CONGREGATION OF EASTERN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the congregation of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which celebrates the 125th anniversary of its formation this week.

Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church began on September 15, 1879, with a membership of about 80 families. The church building was located on the corner of East Street and Logan Street, and it has remained there for 125 years. The original structure of the church is still a part of the present day church building. Over the years, the church has undergone renovations and additions on four separate occasions, the most recent addition coming in 2000 with a major expansion of meeting room space, a large fellowship hall, a computer lab, and an industrial kitchen and pantry for a food service program for the neighborhood. Every addition has been undertaken with a view towards continuing the church's commitment to serve the surrounding community.

It is this history and emphasis on community service and fellowship that make me proud to

be a member of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church. A number of programs contribute to the church's ministry in the neighborhood, including student tutoring, the formation of the multifaceted Baxter Community Center, and cooperation with Wedgwood Christian Youth and Family Services in teaching important life skills to young people. The Saturday Food Program is the hallmark of the church's service to the neighborhood, where every week hundreds of people can purchase fresh produce and groceries at substantially below-market prices.

Commitment to public service is also a defining characteristic of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church: the church's membership has included a Member of Congress, a state senator, several state representatives and county commissioners, a state appellate court judge, and a federal district judge.

Through its 125 year history, the congregation of Eastern Avenue has been served by sixteen capable and distinctive pastors. It is currently in the midst of a search process to find a new pastor to lead this diverse and growing community of believers.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you and all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating the members of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church for their 125 years of service and worship in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The congregation has been blessed in its ministry, and the community has been blessed by the church's presence.

HONORING ADA KATHERYN LEWIS
ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY SEP-
TEMBER 15, 2004

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ada Katheryn Lewis on her 80th birthday as well as her many years of dedication to the surrounding community.

Ms. Lewis was born September 27, 1924, in Wayne County, North Carolina to Charles and Annie Coor. She then graduated from Atlantic Christian College, cum laude in 1945 and began teaching. Throughout her teaching career, she taught in Johnston, Franklin, Wilson and Pitt Counties.

In 1962, Ms. Lewis received her MA in Educational Administration with honors from East Carolina University. In 1978, she was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Pitt County Public Schools, becoming the first woman to hold such a position at that level in North Carolina.

In 1982, Ms. Lewis retired from the public school system and became the first Director of the Rural Education Institute at East Carolina University (ECU). She held this position until 1986 when she retired and became a consultant for the Institute. She holds the title of Professor Emeritus and was appointed "Visiting Lecturer" to the ECU School of Education as well as being named "Distinguished Educator."

Ms. Lewis has been recognized by virtually every appropriate institution for nearly 50 years of dedication to the education of those that were influenced by her teachings.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Lewis for her

years of service to the youth of America and her dedication to the human mind. Her contributions and efforts are much appreciated and will always be remembered. Her service is an exemplary example of an ideal citizen.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5025) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Oxley-Frank-Kolbe-Pastor-Hinojosa amendment to H.R. 5025, the FY2005 Treasury Transportation Appropriations bill. The amendment would strike bill language, section 216, that prohibits the Treasury Department from enforcing or even publishing its recent regulations implementing the USA PATRIOT Act provisions requiring financial institutions to take reasonable steps to identify their customers.

This bipartisan Amendment is supported by the White House, the Chair and Ranking Member of the Financial Services Committee and virtually every major association within the financial services industry including the American Bankers Association, Consumer Bankers Association, Bankers' Association for Finance and Trade, America's Community Bankers, Financial Services Roundtable, the Credit Union National Association and the Securities Industry Association.

The Amendment would strike language adopted in subcommittee that would prohibit the Treasury Department from spending funds to administer and enforce regulations implementing Section 326 of the USA PATRIOT Act. Specifically, this language would prohibit the Treasury Department from implementing regulations issued on May 9, 2003, that permit financial institutions to accept matricula consular identification cards as part of a valid customer identification program.

Mr. Chairman, while I have objections to many aspects of the USA PATRIOT Act, I support the Section 326 requirement that financial institutions must establish "reasonable procedures" for verifying the identity of customers seeking to open a new account. Section 326 enhances the ability of financial institutions to detect and prevent both money laundering and the financing of terrorism by requiring institutions to develop comprehensive procedures for verifying customer identity. Yet section 216 of H. R. 5025 would make it impossible to achieve this important objective, and, thus, it should be stricken from the bill.

If the Oxley-Frank-Kolbe amendment is not adopted, this appropriations bill could drive large sections of the U.S. population to underground financial services providers and thereby weaken the government's ability to monitor and enforce our money laundering and anti-terrorist financing laws. Adopting this amend-

ment is critical to ensuring that our government has the ability to track terrorist finances.

Mr. Chairman, while those who are hostile to the Mexican matricula consular card want to transform this issue into a debate about immigration, this issue is not a debate about immigration. Rather, it is a debate about whether we will preserve the ability of our government to work with financial institutions to fight terrorism by tracking terrorist financing. The language in the bill doesn't simply prohibit the use of matricula consular cards—the bill prevents the Treasury Department from enforcing ANY type of identity verification under this important regulation.

The Oxley-Frank-Kolbe amendment enables banks and credit unions to recognize matricula consular cards as identification for financial transactions. The language in the bill does not merely discourage the acceptance of matricula consular cards. It, in effect, prevents their acceptance by financial institutions. The language in the bill effectively prohibits the Treasury Department from enforcing the USA PATRIOT Act's customer identification provisions that are designed to combat money laundering and terrorist finance.

If Section 216 remains in this bill, the Treasury Department would be prohibited from even telling financial institutions that they must verify the identity of their customers. Mr. Chairman, all of us know that it becomes more difficult to track tracking terrorist financing whenever more people turn to the underground financial system. Why would we want to adopt legislation that will make it easier and more common for people to opt out of the transparency of the mainstream financial system?

Mr. Chairman, denying foreign nationals access to the U.S. banking system will undermine the ability of U.S. law enforcement, regulatory, and economic agencies to do their jobs, since individuals will likely turn to other, less transparent, less regulated, and more expensive methods to transmit funds. We should be encouraging immigrants to use the mainstream financial system to hold and transmit funds. Allowing financial institutions to choose to recognize matricula consular cards as part of their customer identity verification program is sound public policy. I urge all my colleagues to support the Oxley-Frank-Kolbe Amendment.

CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2457, the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act; Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004.

The Castillo de San Marcos National Monument is the oldest existing permanent sea-coast fortification in the continental United States. This is not only a unique National Park, but also a national treasure.

This 16th Century fortress is the most complete and unique historic fortification in the United States.

The star-shaped fort, surrounding moat, and earthworks were constructed between 1672–1756 to protect Spanish territory in Florida and the shipping routes along the Florida coast.

This National Monument was the focus of the struggle between Great Britain and Spain for regional supremacy during the 17th and 18th centuries.

It was also the site of a British garrison during the American Revolution, and was last employed for defensive purposes in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

Madam Speaker, more than 1.5 million tourists visit this National Monument each year. This 16th Century fortress, that has never been conquered, is straining under modern day requirements to accommodate its growing visitors' population.

I have been working with the Colonial St. Augustine Preservation Foundation, the City of St. Augustine and the National Park Service to improve and expand educational resources and public accommodations at the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument.

As you can imagine, adapting a 4-century old structure with adequate public facilities, meeting handicap and disability standards, and visitor educational facility standards are not an easy task.

H.R. 2457 authorizes Federal funding for both museum, educational and visitor facilities to compliment and serve this 16th Century fortress without destroying a historic structure.

For the first time, this legislation appropriately authorizes federal funds to construct a visitor and educational resource center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument.

Not only will this new visitors center assist the fort in maintaining its historical integrity, but it will accommodate visitors' needs and provide a great educational experience.

In addition to this bill, the National Park Service is expected to complete a General Management Plan in the following months which will include design, planning and construction options at a required facility at the National Monument.

This legislation will properly authorize a long overdue major infrastructure improvement for the National Park Service.

Finally, this bill will preserve for future generations this historic fortress and will add to the enjoyment and education of both visitors and local citizens.

I would like to thank Chairman RADANOVICH for his support of this bill. I also would like to thank House Resources Committee Chairman RICHARD POMBO for his support of this much needed measure.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 2457.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to inform the House of Representatives that last Thursday, September 9, 2004, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following roll call votes:

Rollcall No. 434 on Agreeing to the Obey Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall No. 435 on Agreeing to the Hayworth Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 436 on Agreeing to the Kildee Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall No. 437 on agreeing to the Stark Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 438 on agreeing to the Paul Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 439 on agreeing to the Hayworth Amendment number six. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 440 on the question of final passage of H.R. 5006. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

PARADISE VALLEY HOSPITAL: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I rise to recognize Paradise Valley Hospital, a marvelous healthcare facility in my Congressional District that has served the community for 100 years.

In 1904, Ellen G. White, the co-founder and spiritual leader of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, helped purchase the 54 acres of land in National City where the Paradise Valley Hospital currently sits.

Paradise Valley Hospital is proud to be the first hospital in San Diego's South Bay, and is the second oldest hospital in the entire San Diego County. The hospital is a 301 bed, non-profit acute care community hospital with emergency services that includes the Bayview Behavioral Health Campus, a 64-bed psychiatric facility. The hospital serves the South-eastern and South Bay regions of my Congressional District where the most economically challenged and culturally diverse communities in San Diego County live.

Paradise Valley Hospital is owned and operated by Adventist Health, headquartered in Roseville, California. The caring professionals of Adventist Health are committed to continuing the Seventh Day Adventist heritage of quality services by working to enhance its patients' total well-being and to improve the health of our diverse community.

It is a full service healthcare facility staffed by 173 physicians, 1,324 employees, and 148 volunteers who oversee 12,622 admissions, 1,750 deliveries, 36,256 emergency room visits, over 99,132 outpatient visits, and 26,169 home care visits per year.

Among its significant accomplishments, Paradise Valley Hospital has performed its 1,000th cardiac catheterization lab procedure; has begun to offer therapeutic classes in Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates and Kickboxing; has raised nearly \$100,000 in its S.T.A.R. Benefit Golf Tournament, and has established the Paradise Valley Hospital Foundation. Most importantly, in 2003, Paradise Valley Hospital donated \$13,260,000 in free and low-cost service to the people of South Bay.

Paradise Valley Hospital places a priority on its relationship with the community through a commitment to quality service, cultural com-

petence, a concern for general welfare, and a willingness to provide spiritual leadership and guidance.

On this wonderful centennial, I am very happy to honor and recognize Paradise Valley Hospital as one of the foremost healthcare institutions in San Diego County.

HONORING OLYMPIAN CARLY PIPER

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to congratulate all the American athletes who competed in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

Being an Olympian is a tremendous honor, and I commend all the athletes who represented our Nation well. These athletes have dedicated long hours, sweat, and tears to accomplish the highest honor in sports.

I would like to recognize the Olympians from the State of Michigan, and particularly one of my constituents Carly Piper. Carly and her 800 meter freestyle relay team had a dominating performance at the Olympic pool and earned a gold medal while setting a world record 7 minutes, 53.42 seconds, easily beating the mark of 7:55.47 set exactly 17 years earlier by the controversial East Germany team.

Carly Piper, the daughter of Kenn and Carol Piper, graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 2001 and had visions of going to the Olympics. Even in high school, Carly was All-State and All-American earning respect at a young age.

Attending the University of Wisconsin, Carly continued to shine in her athletic endeavors. In 2002, Ms. Piper placed third in the 1500 meter freestyle at the P66 Summer Nationals and she took fourth in the 500 yard freestyle. In 2003, she finished sixth in the 1650 yard freestyle in the NCAA Championship and won gold in the 800 meter freestyle relay at the Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Carly earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic team by finishing fifth in the 200 meter freestyle at the U.S. trials and is the first female swimmer from the University of Wisconsin to make a U.S. Olympic Team. Carly, who is a zoology major at the University of Wisconsin, plans on becoming a veterinarian after her swimming and college careers are over.

When Carly was seven years old, she told her parents that she would go to the Olympics, and little did she know, she would not only go to the Olympics but she would win the gold with a recordbreaking swim.

Again, I congratulate Carly Piper for all of her dedication and hard work and the achievements she has met both personally and with her team while representing the United States in the 2004 Olympic games in Athens. She has made all in the State of Michigan proud of her victories.

ROCK SPRINGS CHURCH
DEDICATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. Benny Tate and the Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church in Milner, Georgia.

Rock Springs dedicated a new sanctuary on August 15, 2004 with a seating capacity of 1,100. What makes this dedication so special is that Rock Springs is a rural church in Middle Georgia which in 1989 had an average attendance of less than 100. But as Dr. Benny Tate explains in his dedication sermon, "The Favor of God" is on Rock Springs Church.

In a day and age when more and more people are moving away from the founding principles of our nation and turning to secularism, I commend Dr. Tate and the congregation of Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church for continuing to seek the lost, and walking in the Favor of God.

Without objection, I would like to enter into the RECORD Dr. Tate's sermon, "Walking in the FOG (Favor of God.)"

ROCK SPRINGS CHURCH—NEW BUILDING
DEDICATION, AUGUST 15, 2004

DR. BENNY TATE—WALKING IN THE FOG (FAVOR
OF GOD)

It is great to be in the Lord's house today and we appreciate you being here for our dedication service. It is an honor and privilege to have each and every one of you in attendance.

I invite you today to take your Bible if you would to the book of Acts chapter 2, verse 38 through 47. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

I want you to notice verse 47. The scripture says "and having favour with all the people." I have been preaching a series of messages entitled 'Walking in the Fog.' An acrostic for the word Fog is the Favor of God. Today I want to talk to you about the favor of God on a church. It is amazing what happens when God's favor rests on a place. It is amazing what happened when the favor of God was on the early church. I think it is amazing now what happens when God's favor is on a church.

We need to understand the favor of God. We need to understand the prerequisites to

the favor of God. Many times we don't understand the favor of God. Why it is seemingly God's blessing is on one place and God's blessing is not on another place. Why does God choose to give favor as he did here in the second chapter of the book of Acts and maybe seemingly the favor of God is not on another place? I want to you give some pre requisites to the favor of God.

The first ingredient to the favor of God is to have a dream. We can have a lot of debates about God's spirit. Acts chapter 2, one of the indicators of being filled with God's spirit is young men shall see visions and old men shall dream dreams. It is so important that every church has a dream. It is so important that our church many years ago had a dream.

Philippians 2:13 says, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." The Bible says in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." It is imperative; it is vital we have a dream.

I know scores of people in their personal lives, in their spiritual lives, in their occupational lives, that are stone blind. They don't have a dream! For the favor of God to rest on a place, we must have a dream. Not only getting a dream but also keeping a dream. Three Hundred Eighty years ago, a group of pilgrims had the courage, the tenacity, the adventurous spirit to cross land and sea to come to a land where they could have freedom, and worship God in spirit and in truth. The first year they were here these 102 pilgrims established a town. The second year they established a town council. The third year the town council proposed building a road out into the wilderness five miles. The fourth year, the people tried to impeach the town council because they said the road five miles out into the wilderness was a waste of funds. A few years before they could see across the ocean, but now they could not see five miles out into the wilderness!

It is so important that we get a dream. It is so important that we keep a dream. H. B. London of Focus on the Family, who is the Pastor to pastors, said, "Congregations, allow your pastors to dream." I am so grateful that I can say with affirmation, after being here working on my fifteenth year, the wonderful people at Rock Springs Church have always allowed me to dream. It may be insane to live life with a dream but it is madness to live life without one. What brought the favor of God on this place? It was because they had a dream.

They had dedication. Acts 2:42 says, "and they continued stedfastly;" dedication. Today is a culmination. We started in 1852 when a group of men, one of them being Absolum Ogletree, had the courage to leave an established denomination and walk out and tread new waters. They formed a denomination, the Congregational Methodist Church; Rock Springs Church being one of the charter churches. It took dedication for a handful of people on July 5, 1979 to watch their building burn to the ground. It took dedication for those people to say, "Our building may have burned, but the church is still here, and we'll build back." What brings the favor of God? Ladies and gentlemen, it is not only a dream, but also dedication to the dream.

The third ingredient to the favor of God is a "desire to reach others." It is woven in the scriptures in verse 38 and 39. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." See it would have been easy folks, to stay where we were. It would have been comfortable to stay where we were. I even said one time, "We don't have to do all this, we don't have to go through all this effort, we don't have to give

all this money—all we have to do is put on the marquis out front, Go to hell, we're full!" But God did not call us to comfort, God called us to a cross. See ladies and gentlemen, Rock Springs Church realizes, it is not about us, it's about them What brings the favor of God is when we get our eyes off ourselves and realize it's not about what we want, it's about reaching men, women, boys and girls for Jesus Christ!

A young lady in our church gave me this: I remember the night during the sanctuary-building program when we made our pledges. I wondered how we would ever be able to give that much. Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifices, and we did. Then I remember the ground breaking when the preacher said, "We've never been this way before," and we all felt a sense of awe about what was becoming. I am overwhelmed by my feelings as I look throughout this sanctuary. Life has been breathed into this place by God Himself. For it is God who has ordained this place and God who built it. He could have used anyone, anywhere, but we were willing. Blessed are we His people who are chosen for such a time as this. Our blood, sweat, tears and prayers are in this building and oh, how small a cost. When I look at this sanctuary, I see the faces of my children growing up in the light of truth. The children I pray for daily. My youngest daughter will be saved and baptized in this building. I see the faces of my family members yet to be saved. My tears will stain the altar for them. I see the faces of those gone on. The sacrifices that brought us to this place. Truly their prayers built the foundation of this building. There once was a plum tree in the field next to the little church on Rock Springs Road. Now there is a new fruit tree growing of wood, brick, mortar and steel. Its branches shall never stop reaching forth, its fruit will always be in season, and it will last throughout all the generations.

For the favor of God, there has to be a desire to reach others.

The fourth and final ingredient is they demonstrated love toward each other. In verse 45 and verse 46 they literally sold their possessions because they cared about each other. A bell is not a bell till you ring it, a song is not a song till you sing it, love is not put in your heart to stay, and love is not love till you give it away. Our church loves one another. We love one another. When we weep, we weep together. When we rejoice, we rejoice together. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. When we genuinely love one another like we love one another, that brings the favor of God and people are drawn to that!

The last prerequisite for the favor of God is to depend on supernatural power. It is in verse 43, the Bible says, "And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles." President Lyndon Johnson used to tell the story about a preacher who got up one Sunday morning and said, "This morning as I was getting ready for church, my dog ate my sermon notes. Today, I'll have to rely on the Holy Spirit, but I promise next week, I'll do better." We ought to be relying on the Holy Spirit every week and on the supernatural power of God. Last night was my first prayer service in here. I've been praying in the old sanctuary. I was praying a while back, and I wouldn't offend the Lord for anything, but I was somewhat overwhelmed and I said, "Lord, this sanctuary is so small and in just a few weeks we are going to go over there in that big one. Lord, I don't know how I am going to fill it." God spoke to me. People say, "How do you know it is God?" Well, if He ever speaks to you, you won't have to ask me that again. God said, "You didn't fill the one you're in now." It is God's house. It is

not my responsibility to fill it, it's God's responsibility to fill it and it looks like He is doing a pretty good job! See, the early church depended on the supernatural.

I close with this story. There was a little church up in Savannah, Tennessee getting ready for dedication day. The pastor looked over at his son about six weeks from dedication and said, "Son, I want you to write a song for dedication." The night before the dedication service, the father looked over at his nineteen year old son Jaron and said, "Jaron, have you written that song yet for dedication?" He said, "No, dad, but I am getting ready to sit down at the piano and I am going to write that song." Jaron said he sat down at the piano and said to himself, "What do I want to experience when I come into this place for the very first time?" He said, "God gave me these words. As I walked through the door I sensed His presence, and I knew this was the place where love abounds. For this is the temple, Jehovah God abides here, we are standing in His presence on holy ground." When I read Jaron Davis's answer, it so parallels how I feel today—"It blows me away that God will take a little country boy from the foothills of Tennessee and let him write a song as a teenager that would have the effect and impact that this one has had. It just kind of proves that little is much when God is in it."

There is no joy in easy sailing, when skies are clear and blue,
Nor is there joy in doing things, that anyone can do,
But there is some satisfaction, that's mighty sweet to take,
When you reach a destination, mama, I never thought I'd make.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SUTTON, MA

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the town of Sutton, MA on the occasion of its 300th anniversary. I am honored to represent Sutton and to have had the opportunity to help it celebrate this important milestone by participating in the Anniversary Parade on September 12, 2004.

Located in the beautiful Blackstone River Valley in central Massachusetts, it retains the rolling farmlands and wooded hills for which it has long been known, which it is committed to preserving as part of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Heritage Corridor and the Purgatory Chasm State Reservation, also located in Sutton, offer visitors a way to explore the natural beauty of Massachusetts.

Sutton's rich history began when the town was chartered in 1704. It was first settled in 1716 by the intrepid families of Benjamin Marsh, Elisha Johnson and Nathaniel Johnson, who braved the harsh winter of 1716-1717 in log cabins, which were sometimes entirely covered by the deep snows. These three families laid the groundwork for what is now a thriving community of more than eight thousand.

Today, tourists who come to the five villages of Sutton can visit the Eight Lots Schoolhouse, built in the 1780s, see blacksmithing demonstrations in the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith

Shop, and enjoy local candies and produce. They can also explore the history of the region through a trip to the Sutton Museum.

The rich culture and history of Sutton make it a wonderful addition to any region, and I am proud to represent it in the United States Congress. Once again, I would like to congratulate the town on its 300th anniversary and to say job well done to all the organizers who made the commemoration of this momentous occasion such a great success.

SMART FROM THE START PRE-
SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR AMER-
ICA ACT

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Smart from the Start Preschool Education for America Act. This bill would help more American families have access to high-quality, voluntary preschool education for their children.

Research tells us that a child's first five years are critical to their future development. Think of the young children you know—they are curious and inquisitive and eager to learn. A high quality preschool education can capitalize on children's curiosity and promote learning, enhance brain development and lead to future gains in higher education and employment. Children who attend preschool education programs are more likely to graduate from high school and to be employed in adulthood.

Given all that we know about the benefits of a preschool education, it is long past time that we start investing in preschool education as a Nation. I am proud that my home State of California has been a pioneer in the efforts to provide high-quality preschool education. I expect that in the years to come we will see that California's investment in early childhood education will pay off with stronger classrooms and schools and a well-prepared and educated workforce.

I think that California's investment should be a nationwide investment. That's why I am introducing the Smart from the Start Preschool Education for America Act. It is time for our Nation to have a serious investment in our most precious assets—our children. I urge my colleagues to support high-quality, voluntary preschool education—our Nation's future depends on it.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP ROSEMAN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a long time friend of mine, a great Tennessean, and an outstanding American, Philip Roseman. Phil recently celebrated his 86th Birthday on August 30th, in Nashville.

Philip Roseman was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to parents who had immigrated from the Ukraine and Romania. On that

day, August 30, 1918, the doctor that came to his parents' house to deliver the baby, forgot to register the birth for a month. The family has always celebrated his birthday on August 30th but official records indicate he was born on September 30th. It was only when he signed up to go into the military in 1942 that he discovered his "official" birthday.

As a youth, Phil attended local Cambridge schools and graduated from Cambridge High and Latin. For a while he played for the Boston Braves on their farm team but eventually went into the newspaper business. He became a sports reporter and advertising editor for a local Cambridge newspaper.

When the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred, he immediately volunteered for service and was sent to England as part of the Army Air Force, 834th Engineer Battalion. There he helped build a secret air base in a small hamlet called Matching Green. He also served as an aide to the colonel. Just before the invasion of Normandy, he was sent back to the United States. He stayed in Brooklyn and trained in intelligence surveillance. After mustering out of the service, Phil married Nettie Weiss of Brooklyn.

About this time, articles about the "sunbelt" captured the young man's imagination. Thinking of the prospects of plentiful energy and labor resources and the chance to start his own business, Phil climbed into his eleven-year-old Packard in 1948 and set a course south. He literally ran out of gas in Union City, Tennessee where he found genuinely friendly and helpful people. He knew right away the South was where he wanted to stay.

His plan was to start a garment factory making jackets. After asking around, he decided to approach the townfathers of tiny Trimble, Tennessee, population approximately 400. They listened to this young man from the North and showed their confidence in the spunky and likeable "New England Yankee" by pledging \$100,000 to finance a factory that would bring employment opportunities to this farming community.

Hard work and dedication soon led to success. By 1955, Phil had outgrown the original plant at Trimble and needed to relocate and expand. He again approached the townfathers but this time in Hickman, Kentucky and convinced them he had a viable industry that would offer townspeople employment. That plant, too, became very successful. Eventually he started a third plant in Ridgely, Tennessee. He also ran outlet stores in the region. During the Viet Nam War, his plants supplied military outerwear. In all, he employed over 700 people in the West Tennessee region.

Phil Roseman was successful not just in his business. He and his wife, Nettie, had three children who grew up to become successful professionals, one of whom is a nationally known doctor. His wife worked alongside him for fifty years building their business. She died shortly after their retirement and move to Nashville. He has recently remarried and lives in Nashville.

The greatest tributes to this man are the loving memories that family, friends and former employees are quick to share about his unlimited kindness, his gentle nature and his unfailing cheerful disposition. This is how I remember Phil Roseman and I know many others do also.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5025) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Oxley-Frank-Kolbe amendment.

This bipartisan amendment from the leadership of the Financial Services Committee corrects the Culbertson provision, a major defect in this appropriations bill that would severely damage the ability of law enforcement to track and target terrorist money.

The White House, the Treasury Department, the banking community—both banks and credit unions, the immigration community, and more than 1,000 police departments across the country, are united in their support for this amendment, and in opposition to the Culbertson provision.

The Culbertson provision guts the key financial anti-terrorism law under which the Treasury Department and financial institutions across the Nation work together to combat terrorist funding.

Under the Culbertson amendment, Treasury could not enforce or even publish its regulations telling financial institutions that they must verify the identity of their customers.

This requirement to verify customer's identity was a key piece of the money laundering provisions of the Patriot Act, which were specifically noted by the 9/11 Commission as an important step towards combating terrorism.

The 9/11 Commission was clear on how we need to combat terrorist funding: "Follow the money," the Commission said.

But the Culbertson provision would drive a significant sector of the economy out of banks and into illicit financial systems, where money is far harder to trace and far more subject to criminal activity.

Secretary Snow—the administration's key Cabinet officer in the effort to track terrorist funding—described the Culbertson provision as follows: "Because this provision could drive large sections of the U.S. population into underground financial services, it would weaken the Government ability to enforce our money laundering and terrorist financing laws." This is the position of the administration—including the Department of Justice and the FBI.

The Culbertson provision targets a form of identification known as matricula, which are issued to Mexican citizens who register with their consul in the United States.

Supporters of the provision argue that matricula are unreliable. But this view is uninformed. The matricula system is internationally recognized and well established.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Mexico increased the security features on this card, so that it is now harder to forge or fraudulently obtain than many state drivers' license.

Mexico maintains a national database to prevent the issuance of duplicate matricula or

the issuance of matricula to criminals on a "stop list".

The cards are accepted by many U.S. banks as a proper and reliable form of identification for Mexican citizens in the U.S.

As many financial associations and institutions have written, eliminating the sue of these cards would undermine the abilities of financial institutions to assist law enforcement in "following the money" by verifying customers' identity.

Additionally, the Culbertson provision would deprive many workers in this country of access to legitimate financial services—banks or credit unions—and drive them into underground systems where money is much harder to trace.

We are far safer if these segments of the population transact their financial affairs in the regulated context of banks and credit unions so that law enforcement can track them and ensure they comply with the law.

Moreover, these workers would be deprived of the benefits and consumer protections of our regulated financial system.

Lastly, as the banks note, depriving this segment of the population of access to credit and forcing them to a cash-based system will hurt the local economy.

The Culbertson provision is dangerous and fundamentally misguided.

We must remove it from this bill. I urge your support of this amendment.

SALUTING "SPIRIT OF GALION"
AND 179TH AIRLIFT WING OF
OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to salute the determined efforts of the crew of the *Spirit of Galion* and the 179th Airlift Wing of the Ohio National Guard in preventing a major disaster over the skies of Iraq earlier this year.

On June 29, the six-man crew of the C-130 transport plane *Spirit of Galion* took off from Balad Airbase in Iraq with 59 Army soldiers on board. The soldiers were en route to the United States for a two-week break. However, the upbeat mood on board did not last for long. Major Bruce Fogle and Major Jeff Charette, the pilot and co-pilot, respectively, and both constituents of mine from Mansfield, quickly noticed that the right main landing gear would not retract after takeoff.

The crew's two loadmasters, Senior Master Sergeant Mike Cyphert (also a constituent of mine from Shelby) and Staff Sergeant Mike Keller from Sycamore, examined the landing gear to discover what was wrong. They found that the gear was wedged at an angle, with one wheel fully retracted and the other almost all the way down. In that position, there was no way the plane could possibly land safely.

Majors Fogle and Charette, though, with 28 years of C-130 flight experience between them, did not panic, even though the plane's fuel level afforded them very limited time to fix this major problem. Working with Captain Matt Muha of Dayton, their navigator, they decided to make their way toward the Persian Gulf, circling overhead until either the gear problem

was fixed or their fuel level reached a critical level.

Meanwhile, Technical Sergeant Shane Adams, the flight's engineer and a constituent of mine from Lima, worked with Sergeants Cyphert and Keller to free the jammed gear. The flight crew alerted experts on the ground as to their situation, working with ground crews in the region, at the 179th Airlift Wing base in Mansfield, and even with private sector aerospace engineers. Even with the combined efforts and suggestions of the dozens of people now troubleshooting the problem, none of the solutions proposed was successful in lowering the gear.

With these options exhausted, Sergeants Adams, Cyphert, and Keller continued to rock the stuck wheels from side to side in an attempt to dislodge them. However, the *Spirit of Galion* was quickly running out of fuel. The pilots radioed Kuwait International Airport and requested clearance for an emergency landing. Just in time, however, the crew freed the gear, allowing it to drop freely.

Even with the gear freed, though, there was no guarantee of a safe landing. The crew had no way of knowing if the gear would stay in place and support the weight of the plane on touchdown. The crew immediately went to work bracing the gear with heavy cargo chains strapped across the width of the cramped plane. The crew also had to rearrange the seating for their Army passengers to minimize the risk to them should the gear give way. The loadmasters helped to secure several of the soldiers to the floor of the airplane with cargo straps.

With the gear secured and emergency crews in place near the runway prepared for the worst, Major Fogle brought the plane in. Despite the continuing tension and the knowledge that so many lives were potentially in the balance, it was a textbook landing, with Major Charette calling it the smoothest he had ever seen. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the entire crew, the gear stayed in place.

The six-man crew was greeted with cheers from their Army passengers and their crewmates on the ground around the world. Befitting their professionalism and dedication, though, they deflected these accolades, instead expressing their own thanks to the soldiers on board, the ground crews in Kuwait, their teammates at the 179th in Mansfield, and everyone else involved in the effort to bring the *Spirit of Galion* back safely.

I am proud to add my commendations to the entire team that prevented disaster on that day—but especially to the flight crew on board. Using their years of experience and through their calm actions, they saved many lives in the air and on the ground that day. The *Spirit of Galion* and the soldiers on board could not have been in more capable hands than this crew, which knew that failure was not an option with so much at stake. Their devotion to their duty and their country is a credit to everyone at the 179th Airlift Wing and an ideal reflection of the bravery and skills of our reservists and guardsmen now serving the United States throughout the world.

IN HONOR OF THE DEPARTURE OF DR. MIKE MOSES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT POST AT THE DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a special tribute to an admired colleague and dear friend of mine, Dr. Mike Moses, as he departs from the Superintendent post of the Dallas Independent School District. Mike is not only admired by those in Dallas, but commands the respect of his peers throughout the state.

Dr. Moses' dedication to educating our youth is evidenced by his service to the Dallas Independent School District and as the Texas Commissioner of Education under then Governor George W. Bush. Mike has presided over years of improvement and progress for the district. During his tenure, the Dallas Independent School District passed the largest school bond issue in Texas, providing \$1.37 billion for 20 schools, 40 additions and renovations to 218 existing campuses in the district. Mike is rightly credited with improving the district's accountability ratings, reducing the number of low-performing schools by half. Mike Moses' service has been truly outstanding and for that I wish to thank him here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It has been my honor and pleasure to work with him over the last several years, and I know I speak for the entire Dallas ISD staff, faculty, and administration when I say he will be greatly missed. I wish Mike, and his family, all the very best as they move into the next stage of their life.

TITLE I FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of legislation introduced by my friend and Virginia colleague Congressman TOM DAVIS to address needed flexibility in the Title I education program. Title I provides the majority of federal education money; however, these education dollars are tied to arbitrary thresholds of needy students.

A school district can go from just above the threshold to just below with the change of only a couple of percentage points. This means that the increase or loss of only a few needy students can bring a significant windfall of new federal money to a district or can devastate a school district that has received federal funds for years.

In northern Virginia there is one such district. Fairfax County, one of the largest school districts in the country, will likely lose nearly \$3 million because of a loss of only a handful of qualifying students. The most recent census-defined poverty rates have dropped the county's population from just above 5 percent to just below 5 percent leaving the school district ineligible for most Title I federal funding. For years, Fairfax County School District has

received Title I federal funds because more than 5 percent of the students were below the census-defined poverty rate.

While there are other school districts throughout the country facing similar difficulties, Fairfax County, which serves over 150,000 students, is the largest school division to be dropped out of eligibility for Title I grant programs and stands to lose the most money.

This legislation introduced today would provide school districts like Fairfax County with a multi-year phase down of these funds. This multi-year phase down will allow school districts time to plan for students' educational future. This flexibility would be particularly helpful for Fairfax County School District where the number of students below the poverty rate dropped by a such a small number.

Despite this current situation, Fairfax will maintain its commitment to education success and will have the same number of schoolwide Title I programs in the coming school year as it did before.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SENATOR EDWARD M. "EDDIE" CALVO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of the pillars of our community, businessman and former Guam Senator Edward M. "Eddie" Calvo, who passed away yesterday on September 14, 2004.

Eddie Calvo was born on March 8, 1936. He was husband to Frances Calvo and father to Eduardo, John, Joseph, Leonard, and Carmen Calvo. He was also a grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, godfather, and friend.

In his capacity as a businessman, Eddie Calvo was Vice-President of Calvo Enterprises, Chairman of the Board of Calvo's Insurance and President of EC Development. He was in charge of both Pay-Less Markets, Guam's largest retail grocery chain, and Calvo's Insurance, Guam's oldest and largest insurance agency. In 1996, he was honored as the Guam Business News Executive of the Year, recognizing his very important role in the success of Calvo Enterprises.

However, his impact on the community has extended well beyond his role as a businessman. He followed in the footsteps of his father Eduardo T. Calvo, who served in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Guam Legislature, to win a seat in the 14th Guam Legislature. After leaving elected office, Eddie Calvo continued public service in his capacity on the Guam Telephone Authority board and Guam Election Commission board, among other endeavors. Other notable family members who have been public servants include his brother Paul Calvo, who was Governor of Guam from 1979–1982, and his nephew Eddie Baza Calvo, who has served in the Guam Legislature.

I have known Eddie Calvo to always be a kind, outgoing, and friendly person. Our families have been very close over the years, and I have known him since I was a young girl growing up in Guam. His service in the public and private sector has been steadfast through

good times and bad, and his intelligence and vision have served him well in both capacities.

Though we mourn his death, we honor his life by living by his example. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of this prominent island leader, Eddie Calvo.

HONORING NORTH CAROLINA SUPERINTENDENT MIKE WARD

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of North Carolina's outgoing Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Mike Ward.

Dr. Ward was elected State Superintendent in 1996, the first year that schools were scrutinized under North Carolina's ABCs accountability program. The Federal No Child Left Behind law was enacted a year after Dr. Ward began his second term, adding another layer of scrutiny and accountability. Dr. Ward used these challenges as opportunities to raise student achievement, while advocating for improvements in the Federal law—including more adequate funding—so that its purposes might be more fully achieved. It is fitting that on his last day in office he was able to announce that North Carolina's average on the SAT had reached a new high and had closed within 20 points of the national score.

During his eight years as the State's chief elected education leader, Dr. Ward relied heavily on his experience as a local superintendent—which earned him North Carolina's Superintendent of the Year Award—and as a teacher and high school principal. He was a tireless advocate for teachers and other school employees, promoting high standards, better compensation, and opportunities for professional development. Dr. Ward believed strongly in the power of teaching and learning, and he regularly set aside time to be in the classroom working with students.

Dr. Ward was respected by his peers and was selected President of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), whose members include State superintendents and education commissioners from across the country. He used this opportunity to raise North Carolina's profile as a leader in improving student performance and school accountability.

I am pleased to join my fellow North Carolinians in thanking Mike Ward for his conscientious and effective service: He leaves our schools stronger, our teachers better equipped, and our students better trained than they were when he started. I wish Dr. Ward and his wife, the Reverend Hope Morgan Ward, all the best as they make the transition from North Carolina to Mississippi, where she will become a Methodist bishop. I know that it won't be long until my colleagues from Mississippi realize how fortunate they are to have this family as part of their community.

CENTRO CHA RECOGNITION FOR
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to congratulate the Long Beach Community Hispanic Association, a Long Beach community non-profit better known as Centro CHA, for their valuable service to the community.

Formed in 1992, Centro CHA's mission is to provide enhanced quality of life to Hispanic/Latino youth, families, and neighborhoods in the City of Long Beach through health and educational programs, social and economic enrichment, cultural arts, and after school programs.

Centro CHA is recognized in the City of Long Beach as a leading Hispanic/Latino grassroots community-based organization. Centro CHA serves as an advocate in efforts to reduce the gaps in services to low-income, underserved Hispanic/Latino youth, families, and neighborhoods.

The City of Long Beach is now the second largest city in California, with a population of nearly 458,000 new immigrants creating significant changes in ethnic distribution and a considerable increase in diversity. According to the 2000 United States Census, the Hispanic/Latino population represents almost 40 percent of the city's total population.

Centro CHA connects the public with vital linkages and resources to access healthcare, civic leadership, and educational institutions. Through cultural community forums, collaboration, and civic leadership, Centro CHA helps local service providers to connect these services to the Hispanic/Latino community. To make the public more aware of the community's activism, Centro CHA created an annual award.

The Nuestra Imagen Award recognizes local individuals and companies for their contributions to local Hispanic/Latino communities. The award is in its eighth year, and it has grown to be one of the most widely attended non-profit awards dinners in Los Angeles County. The awards ceremony coincides with Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as Mexican Independence Day, and celebrates "the exceptional achievements of outstanding individuals and corporations, all of whom foster the development of children, families and communities in the Greater Long Beach area."

I look forward to working with Centro CHA in the future for the betterment of our community.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR
FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 667, expressing support for democracy in Hong Kong. I would like thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. COX), as well as the distinguished Ranking

Member of the Committee on International Relations (Mr. LANTOS), for sponsoring this timely and important resolution.

As my colleagues are aware, this is the seventh year after Hong Kong's reversion to China. As the Department of State noted in an April 2004 report to Congress (as mandated by the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992), the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) remains an international city whose residents continue to enjoy protections of the rule of law and broad civil liberties.

As is also well-understood, the U.S. maintains substantial economic and political interests in Hong Kong and promotes Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy under Chinese sovereignty. Washington works closely with the authorities in Hong Kong on a wide range of international issues, not the least of which is cooperation in the global campaign against terrorism.

Having said that, developments over the last year have raised serious concerns, in the former British colony as well as around the world, regarding Beijing's commitment to respect the "high degree of autonomy" it has promised Hong Kong.

From a Congressional perspective, it appears self-evident that advancing democratization and constitutional reform—including universal suffrage—would contribute to the city's political stability and economic prosperity. The authorities in Beijing should realize that a vibrant, democratic and prosperous Hong Kong would be a tremendous asset to China. Hong Kong will only become a threat if China makes it so.

Even though the Basic Law may not technically require fuller democracy by 2007–2008, wisdom as well as respect for autonomy dictates the embrace of democracy for Hong Kong. Having traveled to Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines earlier this year, all of which have held successful local and national elections, I see no reason why Hong Kong—with all its wealth and sophistication—cannot do so also.

The people of Hong Kong made plain their aspirations for greater democratic autonomy, aspirations fully within the framework of the "one country, two systems" formula, when they so impressively demonstrated on July 1 last year. In the aftermath of those peaceful demonstrations, the Hong Kong government appeared to listen to the people and withdrew controversial national security legislation pending additional consultations with the populace of the city. The people of Hong Kong again showed their keen interest in participatory democracy when they turned out in record numbers for District Council elections last November, and in another large and peaceful pro-democracy demonstration on July 1st of this year.

In addition, in elections held on September 12, turnout was a record 1.784 million voters (55.63 percent of registered voters). However, pro-democracy candidates, perhaps stung by scandal, managed to gain only three seats for a total of 25, a disappointing outcome since opinion polls indicated stronger results under Hong Kong's complex electoral system.

The election results notwithstanding, one has the sense that the pace of democratization in Hong Kong appears inconsistent with the desires of a majority of the Hong Kong people. Indeed, recent decisions by Beijing setting limits on constitutional development in

Hong Kong appear to be inconsistent with the "high degree of autonomy" promised by the central authorities in the 1982 Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.

Equally dismaying has been a series of incidents in Hong Kong—from several political talk show hosts complaining of apparent threats against them, the appearance of a Chinese flotilla sailing through Victoria Harbor, an attack on the office of legislator Emily Lau, and recent allegations of harassment against the print media—that many perceive to be part of a campaign of intimidation against pro-democracy advocates in Hong Kong. Likewise, a new element in the September elections has been the concern of pro-democracy groups that mainland authorities were attempting to influence the outcome of the vote.

Although mainland officials insist that they continue to support the Basic Law's commitment to universal suffrage in Hong Kong, Beijing's actions indicate that the central authorities are profoundly concerned about the extension of democratic rights in the HKSAR. It is hard to know precisely why China has resisted Hong Kong's democratic aspirations, but what might be termed Beijing's "three confusions"—that reform might spin out of control, that democracy in Hong Kong would create a potentially destabilizing precedent for China, and a mistaken conflation of the situation in Hong Kong with the situation in Taiwan—are all possible explanations.

Whatever the reasons, they are unconvincing. One has the sense that China is moving into the world with increasing sophistication, yet maintains major misconceptions about Hong Kong.

There is also a "fourth confusion" which the United States itself should seek to avoid in its policy toward Hong Kong. By that, I mean America needs to find ways to strongly support the Hong Kong people's desire for democracy, electoral reform and universal suffrage without precipitating unnecessary Sino-American confrontation, damaging the interests of the people of Hong Kong or inadvertently undercutting the cause of Hong Kong's democrats.

Like Beijing, the U.S. has an enormous vested interest in the success of the "one country, two systems" model in Hong Kong. In this context, I believe it would be unwise and counterproductive at this time for the U.S. to review Hong Kong's treatment under the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, as has been suggested in some quarters.

America needs to keep perspective. While the speed and scope of political change may be frustrating, Hong Kong still stands out on the Asian landscape as an enduring beacon for the rule of law and civil liberties.

I stress this because often in relations between states well-intentioned positions can be considered counterproductive. The U.S. Congress is obligated to comment on the importance of the people of Hong Kong being permitted to determine the pace and scope of constitutional developments and to move forward with democracy and electoral reform. However, we have no desire to be confrontational.

What is critical at this juncture is that all parties take credible steps to restore dialogue, build confidence, and seek compromise.

Whether the 21st Century is peaceful and whether it is prosperous will depend on whether the world's most populous country can live

with itself and become open to the world in a fair and respectful manner. Hong Kong is central to that possibility. As such, it deserves our greatest attention, respect, and good will.

Hong Kong is important unto itself; it is also a model for others. In particular, what happens there is watched with great interest by the people of Taiwan. In a globalist world where peoples everywhere are seeking a sense of community to serve as a buttress against political and economic forces beyond the control of individuals and their families, it is next to impossible to reconcile political systems based on unlike institutions and attitudes. Mutual respect for differences is the key to peace and prosperity in a world in which history suggests conflict has been a generational norm.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT C.
THORNTON, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Staff Sgt. Robert C. "Robbie" Thornton, Jr., 35, of Fort Hood, TX, died on August 23, 2004 in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Thornton was a tank commander in the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX, and was killed when his patrol came under rocket-propelled grenade attack. He is survived by his wife Ellen, and children, Bradley, 6, and Breanna, 3. He is the son of Dominique Thornton, of Belen, NM, and retired Lt. Col. Robert Thornton, Sr.

Robbie Thornton was eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker, and loved classical music. He was a graduate of Jacksonville High School in Jacksonville, Alabama, where he was known for his athletic ability, and attended Jacksonville State University. Like every other soldier, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

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

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

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

IN APPRECIATION OF AIPAC

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, for more than half a century, the relationship between the United States and Israel has been a cornerstone of American national security and our commitment to freedom and democracy. During the cold war, Israel provided intelligence and support to our efforts to confront the ty-

anny of Soviet communism. The experience gained by Israeli soldiers, who fought three major wars against armies equipped with the latest Soviet military equipment, was invaluable to our efforts to devise equipment and tactics to maintain military superiority over the Soviet Union.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Israel has continued to act as a valuable partner in our efforts to bring stability and freedom to an increasingly volatile and unstable part of the world. In 1991, Israel absorbed numerous Iraqi SCUD missile attacks without retaliating, so as not to fracture the global coalition that was working to oust Saddam Hussein's troops from Kuwait. Throughout its history, but especially in the 1990s and into this decade, Israeli civilians have been killed in enormous numbers in an ongoing campaign of suicide bombings and other acts of terrorism by those who will never countenance the existence of the Jewish State. Even as they mourned their dead, Israelis worked for peace with their Arab neighbors and the Palestinian people.

Most remarkably, despite these existential challenges, Israel has remained a democracy. Surrounded by autocracies, dictatorships and monarchies who have made its destruction a centerpiece of their national identity, Israel has continued to hold regular elections and its politics are some of the most spirited and free-wheeling in the world. Truly, Israel has remained "a light unto the nations." Time and again, Israel has sacrificed its security for its values—most recently this summer when the Israeli Supreme Court ordered the government to reroute part of the security fence.

For many in Congress, AIPAC has been an invaluable asset in helping us to understand the many dimensions of the American-Israeli partnership. AIPAC is effective because it has a long track record of providing policymakers and Members with accurate, comprehensive information about the Middle East. It is not surprising that AIPAC's annual meeting and dinner is an important event for Democrats and Republicans, Members of Congress and administration officials, presidents, governors and mayors. Our attendance is a testament to the esteem in which we hold AIPAC and the partnership between Israel and the United States that it seeks to advance.

I have worked with AIPAC throughout my tenure in Congress and I have found AIPAC members to be dedicated, patriotic Americans who deeply believe that the security of the United States and the security of Israel are mutually dependent. And I look forward to many more years of working with AIPAC and its members to address common threats to our security and to freedom-loving nations around the globe.

THE ROAD TO RUSSIAN TERROR
GOES THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. State Department announced today that for the first time Saudi Arabia has been placed on a list of countries who have engaged in "particularly severe violations" of religious freedom, and faces possible sanctions by the

United States as a result. Today's action simply underscores a point that I have made time and time again, namely, that the Saudis have been funding for many, many years madrassas where Wahhabism is taught, and Wahhabism is a radical fundamentalist Muslim religion that teaches children to hate Christians and Jews, and to perpetrate violent acts against them.

Wahhabism is also the philosophical and religious underpinning of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network. The simple fact is, wherever you find Wahhabis you will find fertile ground for al-Qaida and its supporters.

The Russian people learned this painful lesson when 30 Chechen rebels took control of a schoolhouse on the first day of school, and killed at least 338 people, half of them children who were going to school for their first day. According to the reports, 10 of those people who were terrorists were Arabs, and we believe that they were probably from Saudi Arabia. In addition, the attacks were reportedly planned by Shamil Basayev, a Chechen rebel commander, and financed by Abu Omar as-Seyf, a radical Islamic Wahhabite, who is not surprisingly believed to be associated with al-Qaida.

Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues an article published in the September 20, 2004, edition of the *Weekly Standard* and written by Stephen Schwartz, entitled "The Road from Riyadh to Beslan." The article lays out quite clearly how the Chechen separatist movement has been hijacked by the Islamist radical Jihadist movement, and makes a compelling case that we must compel Saudi Arabia to cut off funding for global Wahhabism if we are to avoid more 9/11s and Beslans. I urge my colleagues to read this article and I would like to have the text of this article placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

[From the *Weekly Standard*, Sept. 20, 2004]

THE ROAD FROM RIYADH TO BESLAN

(By Stephen Schwartz)

Three roads led to the horror at Beslan in the Russian republic of North Ossetia in which at least 330 people, most of them children, died: one road beginning in Grozny, the capital of neighboring Chechnya; one road beginning in Moscow, to the north; and one road beginning in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, far to the south. Americans need to know how such frightful events are connected to the global war on terror, and the degree to which they must threaten our own peace of mind.

The main culprits in Beslan were Islamic extremists. Since at least 1999, these violent fanatics, with backing from the Wahhabi sect of Saudi Arabia and financial support from radicals throughout the global Muslim community, have assiduously agitated to take over the Chechen national movement (about which more in a moment).

The participation of "Arabs"—meaning Saudis and other Wahhabi influenced Muslim foreigners—is a constant in reportage and comment on Beslan and earlier terrorist incidents in Chechnya, as well as in neighboring Ingushetia, in Georgia, and in Russia itself. The majority of Chechens, most of whom want only to be left alone, are not averse to the Wahhabi offensive, which is one reason most attacks now take place outside Chechnya.

Meanwhile, the Islamists hope to exploit old rivalries between the Chechens, Ingushes, and other Muslim peoples of the Caucasus

mountains and their Christian neighbors, including the majority of Ossetians. In Russian and Soviet history, Chechens were always the arch opponents of Russian penetration into the mountains, and the Ossetians the most enthusiastic Russian supporters.

Al Qaeda-promoting websites accessible almost anywhere are replete with propaganda extolling terrorism against innocents in Russia, exalting suicide bombers, and seeking to intoxicate Muslim youth with the glamour of dying in the Chechen campaign (see, for example, www.islamicawakening.com/viewarticle.php?articleID=1059&). In mosques across the globe, from New York to Nairobi, Wahhabi extremists collect money and recruits for combat in Chechnya, which at times overshadows Iraq as a symbol of so-called martyrdom.

To cite an example on American soil, the 25th National Convention of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), a front for the radical Jamaat-i-Islami in Pakistan, was held in 2000 in Baltimore. There, Tayyib Yunus, head of the group's youth section, complained, "We all want to see our youth to succeed to become doctors, to become engineers; but how many of you can actually say that you want to send your sons to jihad, to Chechnya? How many of you can actually say that you want to send your youth to fight in jihad?" Chechen advocates claim that money collected in mosques in America and other Western countries never reaches the Caucasus.

Wherever al Qaeda and its supporters operate—which means wherever Wahhabis are to be found, including in the United States—atrocities like those in Beslan may occur. Why should a conspiracy capable of the attacks of September 11, 2001, known to have been plotting the use of nuclear dirty bombs, and guilty of bloodshed from the nightclub bombing in Bali to the Madrid metro massacre shrink from taking children hostage anywhere? To defeat the perpetrators of Beslan and its like must be the goal of all who would protect civilization. Yet two questions must be posed: How can we defeat the terrorists? And, is Russia under Putin truly an ally in the struggle?

The Wahhabi conspiracy that has taken over a section of the Chechen movement is controlled from Riyadh. To stop another Beslan from occurring, the United States and other leaders in the global war should do everything necessary to terminate al Qaeda, capture bin Laden and his command staff, and quiet the storm in Falluja. That is, they must force the rich Saudis and Saudi state institutions to halt their international promotion of Wahhabism. Notably, the terror financing charities operating in the Chechen refugee camps in Ingushetia must be dismantled.

Action by President Bush calling the Saudis to order on this matter would be more effective than waiting while Vladimir

Putin further mishandles a problem that the Russians have never been able to deal with. The Russians respond to such challenges by attempting to manipulate them for political purposes, rather than by trying to save lives and catch terrorists. In dealing with al Qaeda and its allies, Russia can be as slippery an ally as the Saudi kingdom.

Historically, the conflict between Russian power and the Caucasian Muslims, of whom the Chechens are the largest group, dates back more than a century and a half. For a useful glimpse of how the original Russo-Chechen war played out, one may consult the novella of Tolstoy, Hadji Murad, his last major work of fiction. Tolstoy was a young officer in the tsar's 1851 campaign to suppress a Caucasian insurgency. His book evokes the wild landscape and the experiences that drove him to an open and emotional identification with the Muslim fighters.

Back then, the Chechens were idolized by many in Europe as a freedom-loving, indigenous people who had done to the tsarist regime what the oppressed Poles and, later, the persecuted Jews could not do: inflict serious military losses. Among Russian Jews, respect for the Caucasian Muslims was so great that the Lubavitcher rebbe Menachem M. Schneerson praised the Islamic leader Imam Shamyl as a hero of resistance to injustice.

The Chechens were not to be spared from vengeance for their success at undermining Russian authority. The most brutal of Russia's rulers in the past 150 years, Joseph Stalin, whose family tree included some Ossetians, ordered a whole range of Caucasian Muslim nations—Chechens, Ingushes, Karachais, Balkars, and Meskhetian Turks—deported to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other Central Asian republics during and after the Second World War. In most cases, the pretext was alleged collaboration with the Nazis, who seldom even reached the territories these despised peoples inhabited.

In the 1950s, Stalin's successors allowed the Caucasian Muslims to return to their homes and absolved them of the charge of assisting the Nazis. But many of them settled in Central Asia, where they followed a moderate form of Islam. In a long interview with me in Almaty in June, the deputy mufti of Kazakhstan, Muhammad-Husein Hadzhi Alsabekov, one of that country's top Muslim clerics and an ethnic Caucasian, expressed his sorrow and outrage at the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Nevertheless, the Chechen problem resurfaced in the Caucasus after the Soviet Union fell apart. At first, Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who as an infant had been deported from his native land in a railroad cattle car, served, with his supporters, as a protector of nascent democracy. A Soviet Air Force commander in Estonia, Dudayev turned over a nuclear air base to the newly freed Estonians

in 1990, making him a hero in the Baltic states. Inside Chechnya, however, order soon disintegrated. For years, many Chechens demanded independence from Russia of the kind their leader had helped the Baltic peoples gain. But unlike Estonia, Chechnya has oil, and Russia was not about to let it go. The result was a series of low-intensity, high-atrocity conflicts, with Chechen militants striking at Russian forces guerrilla-style, and the Russian military responding with mass killings and disappearances of Chechen civilians.

Dudayev, a force for moderation and stability, was slain by the Russians in 1996. Russian president Boris Yeltsin then made peace in Chechnya, in cooperation with the moderate Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov, and withdrew the Russian army. But in 1999 the Wahhabis showed up in Chechnya and neighboring Dagestan in force. Among Muslims, it was said that they were Arabs who had been excluded from participating in the Kosovo war by the Albanian leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army, who considered the Kosovar struggle nonreligious, and who did not want to alienate their U.S. allies.

For whatever reason, the arrival of the Wahhabis, led by a Saudi—Samir Saleh Abdullah Al-Suwailem, who called himself Khattab, and who would be killed in mysterious circumstances in 2002—plunged Chechnya back into a nightmare of kidnappings, murders, suicide terrorism, and similar incidents, which has yet to end.

But if the Chechen problem persists, so do its Russian and Saudi counterparts. Many in Russia and elsewhere believe that the Putin regime has a stake in maintaining the Chechen conflict as a means to unite his people behind the president, regardless of the criminal ineptitude displayed by Russian authorities at places like Beslan. According to authoritative Western experts, official Russian complicity in Wahhabi terror in the Caucasus cannot be doubted. The worst of the Wahhabi kidnapers, Arbi Baraev, and his nephew Rovshan, who carried out the hostage-taking in a Moscow theater in 2002, were connected with the Russian security services. The Russian authorities partly face a problem they themselves fostered.

Be that as it may, the decisive struggle to prevent atrocities like Beslan from being repeated will happen at the source, which is Saudi. We cannot, at this late date, expect Putin to suddenly come to his senses and find new Chechen allies capable of isolating the terrorists. Rather, we should recall the end of the Cold War. Once the Kremlin stopped financing world communism, the phenomenon nearly disappeared from the planet. If America can compel Saudi Arabia to cut off funding for global Wahhabism, the ghastly spectacle of Beslan will not be repeated again and again.