

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPASSIONATE VISITOR VISA ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce my bill from the 108th Congress that will provide greater flexibility in issuance of temporary visitor visas to the alien relatives of citizens in urgent and compelling circumstances involving those citizens such as life-threatening or terminal health conditions or memorial services. In doing so, we will assure that our own brothers and sisters are provided basic compassion and family unity in their time of need.

The post-9/11 world demands that our immigration policy ensure our national security. So let me say up front that nothing in this bill forecloses U.S. consular prerogatives in that regard.

However, after this prerequisite has been met, we need to provide for a greater accommodation than current law and practice allow of immediate and urgent needs of our own fellow citizens for relatives seeking temporary admission due to extenuating circumstances. Specifically, my bill allows such applicants to overcome the statutory presumption against immigration for a brief stay occasioned by a demonstrated and immediate family obligation or need involving a parent, child, sibling, grandchild, or grandparent.

My office has been involved in numerous cases in which many of my constituents were left heartbroken at the news of a nonimmigrant visa denial for such occasions as to attend a funeral or visit a terminally ill family member. There are also instances where the immediate relative of a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident has been denied entry into our country to donate a matched organ to a family member.

These families were willing to purchase plane tickets, arrange for accommodations, in short everything anyone of us would do for a visiting loved one. Temporary visa applicants had documentation to prove that they had every reason to return to their country of origin: they maintained homes, businesses, bank accounts, and had other family members, often small children, that would remain behind. Yet it was to no avail, and families were left separated for important, often life-changing, events.

These are some examples:

The parents of a 27-year-old U.S. citizen who was murdered by her husband were barred from attending her funeral, which had to go on with out them. They were thereby prevented from then comforting their 5-year-old granddaughter. All told, they have made over a half-dozen 18-hour bus rides to the U.S. Embassy in Manila to obtain travel visas, only to have their applications turned down every time as they were deemed to not have sufficiently strong ties to their own country.

A terminally ill naturalized U.S. citizen who has not seen any of her siblings for more than 20 years wanted to see just one of them one last time. A sister had applied for a non-immigrant visa to be able to visit and care for her sibling and, in the process, would voluntarily leave behind her own husband and young children in the Philippines for this purpose. Unfortunately, her visa application was recently denied. The main reason cited was that her husband's income was too modest and she was not currently employed.

A recent article in the Honolulu Advertiser detailed the gripping story of Francisco Guerrero, a U.S. citizen who for the past 6 years has had to undergo dialysis treatment for several hours three times a week in Honolulu, while in the Philippines, his son Glenn, not a U.S. citizen, is willing to donate a life-saving kidney that is considered a near-perfect match. Yet Glenn has been denied a temporary visa to visit the U.S. for the operation because our consulate has determined he does not have a demonstrated intent to return to his country thereafter. I include the text of that article at the end of my remarks today.

These are compelling stories of a well-intentioned Federal immigration policy gone very wrong. I suspect that many of you have similar stories affecting families in your district.

Again, the problem these stories graphically illustrate and the solution my bill offers have nothing to do with preserving our homeland security. These applicants were subject to a security review like other applicants, and nothing in the Compassionate Visitor Visa Act would alter that.

The reason for the rejection of such applications lies instead in the application of the presumption clause in current immigration law. In practice, applicants for nonimmigrant visas are presumed to be at risk of defaulting on their visas and remaining in our country illegally unless they can affirmatively prove that they will return to their countries. In the cases above, the applicants provided documentation to overcome this presumption and demonstrate they had every reason to return to their country of origin: they maintained homes, businesses, bank accounts, and would leave other family members, often children, behind, but to no avail.

The Compassionate Visitor Visa Act says that the presumption clause, as applied to close family members of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents that are seriously ill or who have died, is wrong and should be changed. It is focused on the wants and needs not of the applicant, but our own fellow citizens.

Opponents of the bill may argue that the result would be to detract from homeland security and enhance the default rate on non-immigrant visas. First, again nothing in this bill changes or compromises procedures designed to identify and weed out security threats, so that cannot be used as an excuse to avoid the focus of this bill. Second, this bill does not say that consular officers cannot consider evidence of applicants' willingness to honor visa

terms and return to their countries, but it does say that the deck won't be virtually impossibly stacked against them from the get-go. And third, this bill applies only in the narrow case of an applicant whose close family member has a serious illness or has died or has some other similar family emergency, as demonstrated by proof to the satisfaction of the consular officers.

I stand here today willing to take the chance of loosening the standard for those most in need because it is the right thing to do. Our U.S. consulates are not entitled to deny an American his or her life. I urge passage of the Compassionate Visitor Visa Act.

[From the Honolulu Advertiser, Feb. 13, 2005]

DENIAL OF VISA STYMIES FILIPINO ORGAN DONORS

(By Frank Oliveri and Vicki Viotti)

For six years, Francisco Guerrero has had his blood cleansed by a machine for several hours three times a week at St. Francis Medical Center in Honolulu because his kidneys have failed.

In the Philippines, his son, Glenn, studies architecture and waits with a life-saving kidney that is considered a near-perfect match for his father. But the U.S. government won't grant the 28-year-old a temporary visa because he can't prove he'll return to the Philippines.

The U.S. Consulate in Manila says the Lawag City resident fits the profile of an undesirable visitor—someone who poses a risk of overstaying a temporary visa because of his background and his homeland's tenuous situation.

Glenn Guerrero has only a part-time job, is relatively poor and already has a pending application to emigrate to the United States.

The Guerreros' plight is not uncommon at St. Francis, the only organ transplant center in the Central Pacific. There are at least 15 Filipino patients there who face the same bureaucratic roadblocks to getting a visa for an organ donor, and all have been rejected. They have all but given up hope of bringing their relatives to the United States for the life-saving surgery. No patients are known to have died while trying to cut the red tape after finding a donor match. But hospital officials said many Filipinos have a rare blood type and die while waiting for a kidney because they never find a match.

The issue, according to interviews with immigration experts, hospital staff, patients and their families, is the intense scrutiny of the visa applications from potential Filipino organ donors since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Before 9/11, St. Francis successfully processed about three visa applications a year to bring organ donors to the states. Since then, the immigration laws have stayed the same but officers at the consulate who review applications have gotten tougher. They search for clues giving them reasonable assurance that the organ donors will return to the Philippines.

"We don't determine between a medical visit or a trip to Disneyland," said Kelly Shannon, spokeswoman for the Bureau of Consular Affairs at the U.S. State Department. "Congress wrote the law, and it is virtually unchanged since 1952. It requires the assumption of an intention to emigrate. You

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have to show a reason to compel your return home.”

Francisco Guerrero, 59, does not understand why Glenn's intent to save his father's life isn't enough to support the younger man's visa application.

“Sometimes they should try to be more understanding of the situation,” the elder Guerrero said. “I think these people don't care. They should think of the purpose of the person who is coming here.”

KEY ISSUES FOR FILIPINOS

There are 389 other patients in Hawai'i who are waiting for a kidney—a wait that can last up to seven years. More than 100 of those patients were born in the Philippines.

U.S. Consulate officials say Filipinos are treated in the same way as any other foreign nationals who wish to come to the United States on a temporary visa. But with few systems in place to track visitors once they have arrived and note when they have departed, overworked officers at the consulate are often the only line of defense against unwanted visitors.

“They have gotten tougher,” said Jessica Vaughan, a former chief consular official at the U.S. Consulate in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Vaughan is now a senior policy analyst for the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington.

The law requires consular officials to assume that every applicant hopes to move to the United States permanently, according to Vaughan. It places the burden on the applicants to prove they would return to their home country.

The issue is complicated for Filipino organ donors because:

Many applicants are poor, with little property and money or a good job to return to in the Philippines.

Filipinos already are one of the largest groups seeking permanent visas to the United States. Any person seeking a temporary visa, who also has requested a permanent visa, faces likely rejection for a short stay. In some cases, officials are so backlogged in reviewing visas that only now are they considering applications dating back to 1990.

There are already an estimated 85,000 Filipinos who live illegally in the United States. Officials say it is likely that most of them simply overstayed their temporary visas.

Hawai'i lawmakers have asked the State Department to look into the organ donor cases at St. Francis.

Rep. Ed Case, D-Hawai'i, said he plans to reintroduce a bill to remove any presumption that an applicant intends to stay in the United States if they are coming here for family emergencies. Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawai'i, co-sponsored the bill when it was first introduced in late 2003.

Hawai'i's two senators have written letters to the State Department asking officials there to take a close look at the problem.

“I'm willing to take the chance of loosening the standard because he or she has demonstrated his or her mother is going to die on the island of Maui,” Case said. “It is the right thing to do.”

Case said he supports keeping the borders safe. But the current law “puts a disproportionate burden on the Filipino community and that's not fair,” he said. The U.S. Consulate, Case said, is “not entitled to deny an American his or her life.”

EXPENSES, LONG WAITS

Since 9/11, the total number of all types of visas granted in the United States has declined because there have been fewer applicants. Vaughan, the former consular official, stresses that each application is evaluated one at a time.

“It's not discrimination,” she said. “It may be that more people qualify from Japan

than in the Philippines. The conditions in that country—economic, social or political conditions—are factored into the consular officer's decision.”

Although the Philippine government has taken an interest in the transplant patients at St. Francis and their families, one official concedes there isn't much it can do.

“We cannot intervene,” said Eva Ditita, Philippines deputy consul general. “We can help on the Philippine side and facilitate their papers, but the ball is on the (U.S.) State Department side. This is a humanitarian undertaking.”

Complicating matters is the lengthy—and expensive—application process. Cathy Bailey, transplant evaluation coordinator at St. Francis, said it takes about a year to compile all the medical information required for a kidney donor in another country, compared with about three months for a donor in the United States.

The U.S. government also requires a long list of documents, from income-tax returns and bank statements, to prove the kidney recipient can support the organ donor for the six months they are required to stay in the United States.

Tissue and blood tests for each potential donor cost about \$3,500, and the results are good for only a few months before they must be performed again, Bailey said. The donor also must pay for travel to Manila for an interview with U.S. Consulate officials and pay for hotel expenses while there as well as for medical tests and doctors' fees.

She said most kidney patients rely on Medicare to pay for the surgery, which costs about \$200,000, and for about \$30,000 worth of drugs annually to ensure the body does not reject the donated organ. Patients don't travel to the Philippines for the surgery because Medicare would not cover drug costs upon their return.

“They almost always come to me crying,” Bailey said. “It's not like I can do anything. It is very costly for these people.”

LAHAINA WOMAN'S FLIGHT

Hilaria Taborada, a 51-year-old Lahaina cashier, has spent a lot of money on medical tests and visa fees and untold hours worrying about her future ever since she was diagnosed with kidney failure in 1999.

One nephew was determined to be a good match as a donor but was too ill to undergo the surgery; a visa application by another nephew was rejected in December because it was deemed that he had no compelling reason to return home.

Taborada undergoes dialysis at home, but still must travel to the hospital for frequent tests.

“How many times I'm going back and forth to the hospital,” she sighed. “I always have infections.”

Taborada's brother is transferring his own property to the nephew in the hope that the U.S. government will recognize the property as a reason for the nephew to return to the Philippines.

Vaughan said that when she worked for the U.S. Consulate in Trinidad, the refusal rate for nonimmigrant visas for people from that West Indies nation (Trinidad and Tobago) was 50 percent.

She said most of the people she dealt with had similar backgrounds as those Filipinos seeking temporary visas.

“Officers do the best they can, based on the information and time they have available,” she said. But “it's a very imperfect science.”

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. CELESTINE PARISH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of St. Celestine Parish in Elmwood Park, Illinois. I am proud of the continuous support and inspiration this parish has provided to the people of Elmwood Park for the past 75 years, and I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Celestine's for their dedicated service.

St. Celestine's has served as an essential part of the surrounding community since 1929, when construction on the Parish church first began. Despite the daunting conditions of the time, construction was completed in 1930, and out of the despair and poverty of the Great Depression, a new beacon of hope emerged for the people of Elmwood Park.

Today, St. Celestine's continues to be an inspiration to the Elmwood Park community. This parish provides a prime example of what can be accomplished when we work together for the common good. The parishioners of St. Celestine's have an impressive history of giving their time, talent, and resources to their community.

What truly makes this parish special are the people of Elmwood Park and its surrounding communities. Week after week, the 3,000 registered families come to St. Celestine's with smiles on their faces and a warm welcome for any and all new parishioners.

Now as St. Celestine's celebrates their 75th anniversary, I ask you all to take a moment and recognize the importance of places like St. Celestine's in communities all across America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing St. Celestine church and all of its parishioners for their 75 years of dedication and service to their community.

WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Woodstock, Illinois Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the 60th anniversary of their founding.

In March 1945, the Woodstock Journal called for business, industrial and professional leaders to form “a real live-wire chamber of commerce.” Since that time, northern Illinois has experienced phenomenal growth, in no small part due to the activity of its business community.

At the Woodstock Chamber's organizational meeting, a representative from the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce told members that “The Chamber of Commerce is a voice of business, industry and agriculture.” That description holds true today, with the Chamber working to ensure a favorable business climate and promoting the area's economic and social progress. Throughout the years, members of the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce

and Industry have participated in various community activities, from honoring 4-H Club members and welcoming home World War II veterans in the 1940s to food drives and telethons today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their substantial and increasing influence on the economic growth and development of the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois. The Chamber's first 60 years have seen great advancement. Let us congratulate them on their part of that achievement and look forward to the next 60 years.

COMMEMORATING PEACE CORPS
44TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN MATEO
VOLUNTEERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Peace Corps' 44th anniversary. Since 1961, over 178,000 Peace Corps volunteers in 138 countries have counseled teenagers and adults in HIV/AIDS education and prevention, guided entrepreneurs in the basic skills of small business development, worked with women to expand their access to credit, conducted curriculum development training for teachers, helped to bridge the divide between those who can afford access to technology and those who cannot, and effectively completed many other notable development projects.

Among this legion of volunteers are twenty residents of my congressional district in San Mateo County, California. They are Corrine Basanez, James Choy, Emily Doan, Michael Hanley, Brian Jungwiwattanapo, Andrew Kerfoot, Adam Ko, Joshua Kroot, Cynthia Lai, Anna Lee, Matthew Lewis, Andrew Lind, Theresa Nagan, Joshua Nagler, Aida Navarro, Michael O'Donnell, Michelle Pena, Doreen Peterson, Dino Saldajeno, and Victoria Wilson. I commend all of them for their dedication, commitment, and service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, this body in the 108th Congress passed with overwhelming bipartisan support the Peace Corps Expansion Act of 2003 and the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004. Unfortunately, our colleagues in the other body were not as successful in considering companion legislation. Notwithstanding this fact, the needs of Peace Corps Volunteers and the Peace Corps as an agency remain pressing. Consequently, I look forward to working with my friend and colleague Chairman HYDE as well as other Members to reintroduce authorizing legislation that will strengthen Peace Corps' ability to fulfill its congressionally mandated mission of conducting diplomacy through development. I am also committed to ensuring that Peace Corps Volunteers, as our best ambassadors in remote villages throughout the globe and particularly in countries with significant Muslim populations, reflect the diversity of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I again salute the many thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers who have dedicated on average two years of their lives

to proudly continuing the arduous yet vastly rewarding work of the nearly 180,000 volunteers that have come before them. I am proud to represent twenty of these extraordinary individuals who are currently separated from their families, friends, and neighbors in the pursuit of service to country and others.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
JAMES GALES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mr. James Gales of Jefferson County, Mississippi, born May 18, 1922. Mr. Gales attended the Jefferson County Training School until sixth grade.

In 1940, Mr. Gales began public work as a construction worker for Shepp Time Construction Company and helped build the Natchez Trace. Following his work at Shepp Time Construction he went on to work for the WPA and construct many of the streets in Jefferson County. In addition, he assisted in erecting the Jefferson County Jail in 1942. He later went on to work for the Illinois Central Railroad.

In February 1944 he volunteered for the United States Army and started his service at Camp Shelby and later at Fort Bennitt, Georgia. After basic training he worked in the battalion headquarters breaking down rations, supplies, for four companies in the Services. In 1946, Mr. Gales attended Alcorn A & M College and later worked for the International Paper Company, working there until 1984.

Mr. Gales was very active in the civil rights movement and joined the NAACP in 1954. Through his commitment and activism in the civil rights movement, he played significant role in electing Jefferson County's first black mayor since Reconstruction, Charles Evers, as well as five city aldermen.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BEND
ROTARY AND THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary commitment to service, community, and humanitarianism displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, embarked on an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generosity a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanitarianism, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, D.C. keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our nation's capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in over 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs.

The Bend Rotary, found in the heart of Oregon, is one such club. Founded in 1947, Bend Rotary is the longest running club in Bend and its members have helped establish the three other Rotary clubs that currently exist in the city—High Desert, Bend-Mt. Bachelor, and Greater Bend.

Rotary International has the motto "Service Above Self" and they adhere to "The Four Way Test" of business ethics, a philosophy that encourages truth, fairness, goodwill and mutual benefit in all professional actions. These traits are evident in the projects Bend Rotary has supported over the years: the Alice Hatch Pre-School Playground, the Drake Park Pavilion, the Juniper Park Skating Rink and Pat's Park in Juniper Park, the Central Oregon Welcome Center Sign, the "Tree of Joy," and the Barrance Honda Mexico Water Project. In the past, Bend Rotary has donated over 280 wheel chairs to a small town in Lithuania and has also raised over \$100,000 to help refurbish a school kitchen in that country.

Currently, Bend Rotary is working in conjunction with the other Bend area clubs on the completion of Rotary Centennial Playground to be located adjacent to Bend Senior Center in Bend. In the true Rotary spirit of service for all, this park has been designed with access and amenities suitable for kids and parents with special physical needs and is compliant with ADA standards. The 350 members of the

four Bend area Rotary clubs have pledged both time and money, including 16 hours of volunteer labor per Rotarian and funds in excess of \$150,000 to launch this worthwhile endeavor.

A major focus of Rotary International is the global eradication of polio, a goal that the organization hopes to meet this year. In 1985 they launched the PolioPlus program to protect children against the disease. Rotary, along with groups such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various governments throughout the world, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Bend Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of "Service Before Self."

TRIBUTE TO BABETTE WISE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Babette Wise, on her dedication to substance abuse treatment and prevention in the Washington, D.C. area for nearly a quarter of a century.

As a licensed therapist and director of Georgetown University Hospital's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Clinic, Wise has worked with individuals, families, and communities struggling with addiction to alcohol and other drugs. She has helped many people throughout the Washington region transform their lives by providing quality treatment and education.

Her treatment philosophy is based on the acknowledgement that addiction is a disease and that abstinence is the best way to manage the condition. Wise treats her patients with respect and provides a safe place for them to heal.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery, I have gained a greater awareness and respect for the problems associated with addiction, and I am working to promote solutions to these problems. I believe that information, education, and awareness about chemical addiction, as well as access to treatment are the keys to combating this horrific disease.

I applaud Babette Wise and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

PRAISING FOREIGN MINISTER OF ARMENIA, VARTAN OSKANIAN'S STATEMENT COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to join my colleagues last month in commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz. On that solemn occasion, Congress remembered the heroic forces that helped bring an end to this crime against humanity, and we reminded ourselves and others to never forget the lessons of the past.

At the request of the United States, Canada, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, and Russia, the United Nations, for the first time, also observed the liberation of Auschwitz. Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vartan Oskanian, was among a select group of foreign ministers who addressed the United Nations 28th Special Session in New York.

As a people victimized by genocide under the cover of WWII, all Armenians have a special empathy for the victims, survivors and descendants of the Holocaust. As Minister Oskanian said at the UN General Assembly:

"After Auschwitz, we are all Jews, we are all Gypsies, we are all unfit, deviant and undesirable, for someone, somewhere."

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I am pleased to submit the Minister's full remarks as delivered to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. By remembering all instances of man's inhumanity to man, we renew our commitment always to prevent this crime's recurrence, and therefore negate the dictum that history is condemned to repeat itself.

STATEMENT OF H. E. VARTAN OSKANIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AT THE 28TH SPECIAL SESSION ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS—NEW YORK, JANUARY 24, 2005

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Dear Friends: On behalf of the people and government of Armenia, and as a descendant of genocide survivors, I feel compelled to be here today, to join other survivors and descendants, of both victims and perpetrators, to take part in this commemoration. I am also duty-bound to urge us all to confront more effectively the threat of genocide anywhere, at any time, regardless of cost and political discomfort.

The liberation of Auschwitz is, indeed, cause for commemorative celebration. However, in this commemoration, with each uttering of the name Auschwitz, we are forced to reflect: to look back, look around, look deep, look at the other, but also look inward, at ourselves.

After 9/11 and reacting to the unusually high number of victims of a singular event, an editorialist proclaimed "We are all Americans". Sympathy, solidarity, anxiety, and indignation bound us together. How much more intense our feelings about Auschwitz and the singularity of its horror, its synonymy with the technology of death-making, its eerily ordinary commitment to efficiency, to pragmatic, effective, result-oriented administration.

After Auschwitz, we are all Jews, we are all Gypsies, we are all unfit, deviant and undesirable, for someone, somewhere. After

Auschwitz, the conscience of man cannot remain the same. Man's inhumanity to men, to women, to children, and to the elderly, is no longer a concept in search of a name, an image, a description. Auschwitz lends its malefic aura to all the Auschwitzes of history, our collective history, both before and after.

In the 20th century alone, with its 15 genocides, the victims have their own names for places of infamy. What the French call 'les lieux infames de memoire' are everywhere. Places of horror, slaughter, of massacre, of the indiscriminate killing of all those who have belonged to a segment, a category, an ethnic group, a race or a religion. For Armenians, it is the desert of Deir-El-Zor, for Cambodians they are the killing fields, for the children of the 21st century, it is Darfur. For the Jews and Poles and for a whole generation of us growing up after The War, it is Auschwitz.

Mr. President: Just as we all were, or are, or might be victims, we all were or are or might also be guilty. It is only through the engagement of those who have seen and done the unimaginable, and who have had the dignity, the grace, the sensitivity, the decency and courage to acknowledge wrongdoing, that we may achieve the requisite collective political will and its expression.

This is not as naive, unrealistic, idealistic as some might wish to label it, perhaps in order to dismiss it. Genocide is not about individuals who act insanely, do evil, commit crimes, perpetrate irrevocable wrongs. Genocide is the undertaking of a state apparatus, which must, by definition, act coherently, pragmatically, with structure and organization.

Thus, this is not a plea to reform human beings, but an appeal to take conscious account of the role our national institutions and international institutions must play to ensure that no one can expect to enjoy impunity.

After Auschwitz one would expect that no one any longer has a right to turn a blind eye or a deaf ear. As an Armenian, I know that a blind eye, a deaf ear and a muted tongue perpetuate the wounds. It is a memory of suffering unrelieved by strong condemnation and unequivocal recognition. The catharsis that the victims deserve, which societies require in order to heal and move forward together, obligates us here at the UN, and in the international community, to be witness, to call things by their name, to remove the veil of obfuscation, of double standards, of political expediency.

Mr. Chairman: Following the Tsunami-provoked disaster, we have become painfully aware of a paradox. On the one hand, multilateral assistance efforts were massive, swift, generous and without discrimination. But, when compared and contrasted with today's other major tragedy, in Africa, it is plain that for Darfur, formal and ritual condemnation has not been followed by any dissuasive action against the perpetrators.

The difference with the Tsunami, of course, was that there were no perpetrators. No one wielded the sword, pulled the trigger or pushed the button that released the gas.

Recognizing the victims and acknowledging them is also to recognize that there are perpetrators. But this is absolutely not the same as actually naming them, shaming them, dissuading or warning them, isolating or punishing them.

If these observations signal a certain naiveté that overlooks the enduring structures of our political and security interests, then, on this occasion, when we have gathered to commemorate this horrible event, then allow me this one question: if not here and now, then where and when?

Mr. Chairman: The Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana, who has been

quoted here, admonished us to remember the past, or be condemned to repeat it. This admonition has significance for me personally, because the destruction of my people, whose fate in some way impinged upon the fate of the Jews of Europe, should have been viewed more widely as a warning of things to come.

Jews and Armenians are linked forever by Hitler. Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians? said Adolf Hitler, days before he entered Poland.

Hitler's cynical remembrance of Armenians is prominently displayed in the Holocaust Memorial in Washington because it is profound commentary about the crucial role of third parties in genocide prevention and remembrance. Genocide is the manifestation of the break in the covenant that governments have with their peoples. Therefore, it is third parties who become crucial actors in genocide prevention, humanitarian assistance and genocide remembrance.

We are commemorating today, because the Soviet troops marched into Auschwitz 60 years ago. I am here today because the Arabs provided sanctuary to Armenian deportees 90 years ago.

Third parties, indeed, can make the difference between life and death. Their rejection of the behaviors and policies which are neither in anyone's national interest nor in humanity's international interest, is of immense moral and political value.

What neighbors, well-wishers, the international community can't accomplish, is the transcending and reconciling which the parties must do for themselves. The victims, first, must exhibit the dignity, capacity and willingness to move on, and the perpetrators, first and last, must summon the deep force of humanity and goodness and must overcome the memory of the inner evil which had already prevailed, and must renounce the deed, its intent, its consequences, its architects and executors.

Auschwitz signifies the worst of hate, of indifference, of dehumanization. Remembrance of Auschwitz and its purpose, however abhorrent, is a vital step to making real the phrase "Never Again."

COMMEMORATING THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) on the 17th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement. On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to correct the historical injustices of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin by reuniting the area with Armenia. Six days later, one million people demonstrated in Yerevan's Opera Square.

Unfortunately, the central Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership violently reacted to this peaceful and legal request by engaging in full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh courageously defended their right to live freely on their ancestral land.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a court system, an independent foreign policy, and a commitment to educating its citizens. I will continue to join with my colleagues in supporting assistance to Nagorno Karabakh, which has a vital role in achieving a peaceful and stable South Caucasus region. On this anniversary, I reiterate my unwavering support to Nagorno Karabakh's freedom, democracy, and economic development.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation to assist low-income taxpayers in preparing and filing their tax returns and to protect taxpayers from unscrupulous refund anticipation loan providers. In particular, the provisions of this legislation will benefit taxpayers eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) who must fill out dauntingly complex forms—the EITC instructions run 53 pages alone—and, because of the dearth of free tax preparation services to help navigate the process, are heavy users of commercial tax preparers.

The problems addressed by the Low-Income Taxpayer Protection Act of 2005 have been ignored for too long. The National Taxpayer Advocate's FY2002 Annual Report to Congress notes that in 2000, only 1 percent of filers with incomes below the EITC income limit received free tax preparation assistance from either the IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers or volunteer sites affiliated with the IRS. The remaining low-income filers who had their forms filed for them used a commercial preparer. While many commercial preparers provide a very valuable, necessary service, the work of these men and women is too often overshadowed by those who peddle refund anticipation loans (RALs)—usurious short-term loans secured by the taxpayer's tax refund, including the EITC. In fact, it is estimated that 43 percent of EITC recipients who went to a paid tax preparer in 2001 ended up with a RAL.

The IRS tells us that 12 million taxpayers got RALs in 2003. These loans took an estimated \$1.4 billion out of the refunds earned by American workers. Nearly 80 percent of taxpayers taking out RALs are earning less than \$35,000 per year. More than half of those who get RALs receive the EITC. EITC recipients are disproportionately represented in the ranks of those who get RALs, since these taxpayers make up just 17 percent of the taxpayer population.

A new Children's Defense Fund survey of eight states and the District of Columbia found that almost \$960 million were siphoned away from EITC recipients because of the cost of these loans and commercial tax-preparers who offer them. California taxpayers of modest-incomes paid nearly \$237 million to these businesses.

The Consumer Federation of America and the National Consumer Law Center found that refund anticipation loan fees cost consumers

about \$1.14 billion in 2002, up almost \$200 million from the year before. Additional fees for electronic filing, "document preparation," and "applications" added another \$406 million to the total. Our constituents who can afford it the least are suffering a \$1.5 billion drain on their tax refunds.

Taxpayers who take out RALs are often told that the loan is the only way they can get assistance with filling their tax returns. The fees for preparation services are taken out of the loan proceeds first. Then the interest rates are applied to the loans, and low-income taxpayers are often unaware at the impact this has on the total amount of their refund.

Mr. Speaker, let me take a moment to break down these estimates from the cumulative to the individual using an analysis found in the consumer groups' report. Based upon the prices for RALs in 2004, a consumer might pay the following in order to get a \$2,100 RAL—the average refund—from a commercial tax preparation chain this year: (1) A loan fee of \$99.95, which includes a \$24.95 fee supposedly for the "dummy" bank account used to receive the consumer's tax refund from the IRS to repay the RAL; and (2) a system administration fee that averages \$32 per loan. Combine that with tax preparation fees, which average about \$120, and the total is about \$250. The effective annual percent rate (APR) on this RAL would be 182 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the funds unnecessarily paid into usurious refund anticipation loans is hard-earned money taken out of the pockets of hard-working Americans who are already just barely getting by; it is food taken from their tables, it is school supplies taken from their children.

The Office of the Taxpayer Advocate acknowledges that there are several factors that drive low-income taxpayers to pay for tax preparation, including: (1) Inconvenient location or hours of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites for low-income taxpayers; (2) lack of bank accounts for quicker direct deposit of refunds; (3) need or desire for immediate cash; and (4) inability to prepare one's own taxes due to limited language, literacy, or computer skills.

The VITA program can be a great resource to low-income taxpayers, providing assistance that will help them avoid unscrupulous commercial tax-preparers that profit unduly from RALs, VITA is available to taxpayers earning less than \$36,000 a year. In 2004, only 1.8 million returns were filed using VITA assistance, although 21 million taxpayers claimed the EITC that year. VITA can better help taxpayers get the full refund from EITC they have earned. In the city of Los Angeles alone, EITC returned over \$585 million in 2003. Mr. Speaker, VITA is vital to the economic health of our hardest-working communities and should be promoted as a means of avoiding the use of RALs by low-income taxpayers.

This bill takes a two-pronged approach aimed at curtailing the drain on our low-income taxpayers by first regulating income tax preparers and refund anticipation loan providers and, secondly, creating IRS-administered grant programs to provide free tax preparation for low-income taxpayers such as provided by VITA clinics and to help individuals establish a bank account for the first time.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARTNER-
SHIP FOR HAITI ACT OF 2005**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005, which will help Haitians overcome the many social, economic, and physical challenges currently facing the country.

Today in Haiti less than 45 percent of Haitians have access to safe water and access to sanitation. Seventy-six percent of Haiti's children under the age of five are underweight, or suffer from stunted growth and 63 percent of Haitians are undernourished. Eighty percent of the population lives in abject poverty and the unemployment rate is estimated to be nearly 90 percent.

My long standing interest in ending the AIDS pandemic has brought focus on Haiti, with 90 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases in the Caribbean. As we combat global HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, maternal and child mortality, and many other life threatening diseases, we must address the long-term effect of dilapidated physical and health infrastructure and abject poverty throughout the world, including in Haiti.

My bill, the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005 offers a comprehensive plan for future engagement between the U.S. and Haitian Government. This legislation partners Haitians and Americans together to execute an environmentally sound approach to rebuilding Haiti. Its major provisions are aimed at developing basic sanitation, water, and other health infrastructures in Haiti.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act would bring the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to train and educate Haitians on how to rebuild, pave, and maintain roads to provide access to rural and urban areas to health clinics. It will commission environmental impact studies for these projects, focusing on long term, environmentally sound solutions—not short term remedies.

Haiti needs assistance in addressing its long-term health infrastructure development. The most basic of these needed development challenges is water. How can Haiti begin to combat its enormous health problems without basic clean and safe water?

Haiti's water quality is life-threatening. In a study released in May of 2003, Haiti ranked last in the world for water quality. The New Partnership for Haiti Act will provide funds and expertise through USAID to partner with Haiti on rebuilding of sanitation, water purification projects, and education for Haitians on how to maintain these systems themselves in the future. This bill will help Haitians build and maintain safer, quality sewage systems and safe water delivery for both urban and rural communities.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act will start a pilot program for American Health Professionals and also Engineers who are interested in going to Haiti and helping with the development process.

It is my hope that a transfer of knowledge from U.S. professionals in the fields of health and engineering to Haitians will ensure long term development and guarantee the success of the programs similar to the success of the

Global Fund and other international initiatives. By widening the knowledge base of non-governmental organizations and professionals in Haiti, the U.S. will take advantage of a unique opportunity and obligation towards Haiti's future.

We worked together to get the humanitarian loans, which had been held up by the Inter-American Development Bank officially released on May 9, 2003. It is my hope that we can continue to push for the full release of these loans and the potential for future humanitarian grants through the IDB. I also believe we must move forward on establishing a health infrastructure for efficient delivery of these health and social sector funds.

Today I submit this legislation, and thank all of my original cosponsors.

I look forward to the support of my colleagues and the Administration.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
MARY ELIZABETH PIPPINS GATES**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Pippins Gates, of Leake County, Mississippi. Mrs. Gates is a graduate of Baldwin High School and received her high school diploma at the age of 15. Ms. Gates continued her education and entered Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, MS where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Mrs. Gates later received Master's degrees in Library Science from Delta State University, Cleveland, MS and in School Administration from Jackson State University, Jackson, MS. In addition, she has done additional study at Mississippi State University and at the University of Southern University.

Mrs. Gates began her teaching career at Conway Attendance Center in Conway, Mississippi. She also served as an elementary teacher at South Leake Attendance Center in Walnut Grove, MS. Mrs. Gates served as President of the Bolivar County Teachers Association and the Leake County Association of Educators. She served as full-time state president of the Mississippi Association of Educators in 1982–1983. She was appointed by Governor William Winter to serve on the first Commission on Teacher and Administrator

Education, Certification, and Development. She served as chairperson of the Board of Directors of the East Central Community Action Agency for eight years. Mrs. Gates retired from the Leake County School district after 40 years of dedicated service to education.

Mrs. Gates served as First Vice-President of the Leake County Branch NAACP for twenty years and is presently serving her 4th year as President. She is a member of the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She is currently serving as a member of the Thomastown Attendance Center Improvement Committee.

Mrs. Gates has received numerous awards for distinguished service to public education and civil rights which have included Outstanding Achievement in Education presented by the Leake County Branch NAACP, Outstanding Achievement in Human Relations from the Mississippi Association of Educators, Exemplary Service in the Promotion of Literacy from the International Reading Association and Distinguished and Dedicated Service as President of the Mississippi Association of Educators.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY
OF REMEMBRANCE: INTRODUC-
TION OF THE WARTIME PARITY
AND JUSTICE ACT OF 2005**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. As we know, on February 19, 1942, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that led to the internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent. With the stroke of a pen, innocent men, women, and children became prisoners and were branded disloyal to the nation they called home. Lives were disrupted and homes were broken as these Americans were uprooted from their communities and locked behind barbed wire fences.

The force of wartime hysteria darkened the light of justice and reasonable people suddenly embarked on an unreasonable course. Indeed, America was engaged in a monumental struggle as our soldiers engaged the enemy in the European and Pacific theatres. Here in the United States, many citizens had faces that looked like that of the enemy. Without any evidence, fear was mounting, and the patriotism of these Japanese Americans was questioned. Some worried that they were intent on doing harm against the very flag they saluted. Decades later, history vindicated these loyal Americans as not even a single documented case of sabotage or espionage was committed by an American of Japanese ancestry during that time.

What our nation found through the disinfectant of time was what those who endured internment knew all along. Surrounded by armed guards behind a prison fence, mothers

thought of their sons who fought for the freedom of the nation that denied them of their own liberty. Indeed today the annals of military history show that the Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd and combat regiment fought honorably and bravely for ideals they knew our nation had not yet afforded to their own families back home. Still, they were worth fighting for. And this regiment would become the most decorated group of soldiers in American history as they proved their devotion to our nation fighting in both the European and Pacific theatres. It took more than 50 years, but finally in 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded 22 of these heroes with the Medal of Honor.

In 1983, a Presidential Commission concluded that the internment was the result of both racism and wartime hysteria. Five years later, then President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law that provided an official apology and redress to most of those confined in U.S. internment camps during World War II. This was the culmination of half a century of struggle to bring justice to those to whom it was denied. I am proud that our nation did the right thing. But seventeen years after the passage of the CLA, we still have unfinished work to be done to rectify and close this regrettable chapter in our nation's history.

That is why I am re-introducing legislation to finish the remaining work of redress. While most Americans are aware of the internment of Japanese Americans, few know about our government's activities in other countries resulting from prejudice held against people of Japanese ancestry. Recorded thoroughly in government files, the U.S. government involved itself in the expulsion and internment of an estimated 2,000 people of Japanese descent who lived in various Latin American countries. Uprooted from their homes and forced into the United States, these civilians were robbed of their freedom as they were kidnapped from nations not even directly involved in World War II. These individuals are still waiting for equitable redress, and justice cries out for them to receive it. That is why today I will introduce the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2005 to finally turn the last page in this chapter of our nation's history.

This bill provides redress to every Japanese Latin American individual forcibly removed and interned in the United States. These people paid a tremendous price during one of our nation's most trying times. Indeed, America accomplished much during that great struggle. As we celebrate our great achievements as a nation, let us also recognize our errors and join together as a nation to correct those mistakes. My legislation is the right thing to do to affirm our commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

In addition, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2005 provides relief to Japanese Americans confined in this country but who never received redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 given technicalities in the original law. Our laws must always establish justice. They should never deny it. That is why these provisions ensure that every American who suffered the same injustices will receive the same justice. Finally, my legislation will reauthorize the educational mandate in the 1988 Act which was never fulfilled. This will etch this chapter of our nation's history into our national conscience for generations to come as a reminder never to repeat it again.

At the forefront of this continuous fight for justice, there are Members of Congress and individuals of the community. This Saturday, I will have the privilege of joining with citizens in Los Angeles at the Japanese American National Museum to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. In addition, on April 8th and 9th of this year, there will be a public testimonial event called "The Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians" at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, California. At this historic event, former internees of Japanese descent as well as those of Italian and German ancestry will testify about their experiences under oath. This testimonial event will provide historical information, personal testimonies and community opinions to the public and Members of Congress. Campaign For Justice has been a leading driving force behind this event with Japanese American Citizens League, which has reaffirmed its support for the ongoing redress efforts.

Mr. Speaker, let us renew our resolve to build a better future for our community as we dedicate ourselves to remembering how we compromised liberty in the past. Doing so will help us to guard it more closely in the future. As we commemorate the Day of Remembrance, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2005.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary commitment to service, community, and humanitarianism displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, embarked on an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generosity a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanitarianism, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, DC, keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our nation's capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in over 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs.

Rotary International has the motto "Service Above Self" and they adhere to "The Four Way Test" of business ethics, a philosophy that encourages truth, fairness, goodwill and mutual benefit in all professional actions. These traits are evident in the projects that Rotary clubs through Oregon's Second District, the United States and the world have supported over the years: eradication of polio, tsunami and hurricane relief, aid to famine victims in Zimbabwe, international youth exchange, training for teachers of students with disabilities, humanitarian and educational grants, vocational service and local community projects such as building playgrounds and developing parks. These are just a few examples of the depth in service given by Rotarians around the world.

A major focus of Rotary International is the global eradication of polio, a goal that the organization hopes to meet this year. In 1985, Rotarians launched the PolioPlus program to protect children against the disease. Rotary, along with groups such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various governments throughout the world, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of "Service Before Self."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING OF TSUNAMI ORPHANS ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with Representatives CHARLES RANGEL, CHARLES GONZALEZ, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and ROBERT WEXLER, introduce legislation, the "Prevention of Trafficking of Tsunami Orphans Act," which would authorize critical assistance to the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to support programs that are being carried out by nongovernmental organizations to protect children who are homeless or orphaned as a result of the Indian Ocean tsunamis in December 2004.

According to the June 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the Department of State, approximately 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Instead of dreams of better jobs and better lives, they are trapped into a nightmare of coercion, violence, and disease. This legislation will help to prevent the children left orphaned or homeless by the Indian Ocean tsunamis from suffering a similar fate.

TRUTH COMMISSION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation calling on the Administration to expose and explain their involvement in Haiti's 33rd coup d'etat.

My legislation will create a TRUTH Commission, which stands for The Responsibility for Uncovering the TRUTH about Haiti. This independent commission will be bipartisan and work to uncover the Bush Administration's role in Haiti prior to President Aristide's exile.

I believe the Bush Administration undercut the potential for a diplomatic solution for peaceful democratic elections, any potential for a cease-fire and an end to violence.

It bears primary responsibility; therefore, for Aristide's unwilling departure as well as for the sacrifice of the democratic process in Haiti.

As Members of Congress find out more about the events leading up to President Aristide's departure, the twilight activities of his alleged resignation, the current unconstitutional government, and the ongoing turmoil, fear, and misinformation that is still flowing out of Haiti.

We want answers, Mr. Speaker and an independent commission is one of many tools that we intend on exercising.

I have several pressing questions that I hope this commission will find the answers for.

1. Did the U.S. Government impede democracy and contribute to the overthrow of the Aristide government?

2. Under what circumstances did President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resign and what was the role of the United States Government in bringing about his departure?

3. To what extent did the U.S. impede efforts by the international community, particularly the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, to prevent the overthrow of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti?

4. What was the role of the United States in influencing decisions regarding Haiti at the United Nations Security Council and in discussions between Haiti and other countries that were willing to assist in the preservation of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti by sending security forces to Haiti?

5. Was U.S. assistance provided or were U.S. personnel involved in supporting, directly or indirectly, the forces and opposed to the government of President Aristide? Was United States bilateral assistance channeled through nongovernmental organizations that were directly or indirectly associated with political groups actively involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the government of President Aristide?

6. Was any U.S. bilateral assistance channeled through nongovernmental organizations that were directly or indirectly involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the Aristide government?

And there are more questions about the long-term origins of Haiti's current crisis and the long-term impact on the region as a result of the Administration's policies.

This was regime change by other means.

We do not teach people to violently overthrow our U.S. government, and we must not teach other people in the international commu-

nity, particularly Haiti, to participate in activities that taint the hope for democracy by use of violence.

I stand here today because the Haitian community stands for democracy and not for political maneuvering by the Bush Administration.

This is an issue of democracy.

The United States must stand firm in its support of Democracy and not allow a nascent democracy like Haiti, fall victim to regime change and an international "racist" foreign policy.

I commend all of my colleagues to join in support of this commission and ask for its timely passage.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
EDWIN E. SEARCY**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Edwin E. Searcy, M.D. Family Practitioner of Bolivar County. Dr. Searcy is a member of the hospital staff at Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Dr. Searcy is a native of Cleveland, MS and received his undergraduate degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and his medical degree from The University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson, MS. Dr. Searcy completed a residency in Family Practice at The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS. He is the son of the late Dr. Rupert T. Searcy and Mrs. E.W. Searcy and has served as a physician for the past twenty-eight years.

Dr. Searcy is a member of the Mississippi State Medical Association Board. He was also selected by the Governor of the State of Mississippi to serve as a member on The State Board of Physical Therapy.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE TORTURE
OUTSOURCING PREVENTION ACT"**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation that would prohibit the outsourcing of torture by the United States Government.

The practice of extraordinary rendition, the extra-judicial transfer of people in U.S. custody either in this country or abroad to nations known to practice torture, has until recently received little attention due to the secrecy surrounding such transfers. Attention was first drawn to the practice after the case of Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen, first came to light. Mr. Arar was seized in 2002 while in transit to Canada through JFK airport in New York, and was sent to Jordan and later Syria by the U.S. Government. While in Syria, Arar reportedly was tortured and held in a dark, 3-by-6-foot cell for nearly a year. He was ultimately released and detailed his story to the media upon his return to Canada. Since that time, other press reports have identified renditions elsewhere around the world, such as the transfer of an Australian citizen, Mamdouh Habib, from Pakistan to Egypt, where he was reportedly tortured.

Extraordinary rendition is wrong because it: Violates international treaties that the United States has signed and ratified, including most notably Article 3 of the Convention Against Torture, which prohibits sending a person to another state "where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture." Undermines the moral integrity of America in the eyes of the world. Ensures that American captives are likely to be tortured by others out of reciprocity, regardless of the urgency of the pleas of our government or the victim's family.

Although the total numbers of those "rendered" by the Bush Administration are unknown, then-CIA director George Tenet testified to the 9/11 Commission in October 2002 that over 70 people had been subjected to renditions prior September 11. Human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the ACLU have detailed numerous other cases that may also involve rendition to countries that practice torture. Last year, the Canadian government launched an investigation into Arar's case, but the U.S. State Department has refused to cooperate with the Canadian investigation.

The bill I am introducing today directs the State Department to compile a list of countries that commonly practice torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during detention and interrogation, and prohibit rendition to any nation on this list. The bill explicitly permits legal, treaty-based extradition, in which suspects have the right to appeal in a U.S. court to block the proposed transfer based on the likelihood that they would be subjected to torture or other inhumane treatment.

Torture is morally repugnant whether we do it or whether we ask another country to do it for us. It is morally wrong whether it is captured on film or whether it goes on behind closed doors unannounced to the American people. President Bush has asserted that "the

values of this country are such that torture is not a part of our soul and our being." I agree.

The legislation I am introducing today is designed to ensure that we not only outlaw torture conducted directly by U.S. government personnel, but that we also stop any practice which involves outsourcing or contracting out torture to other nations.

I urge Members to join in cosponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME
MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution, offered by Representative RAHALL of West Virginia, condemning the terrorist attack of February 14, 2005, that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and to honor the life and legacy of the former Prime Minister.

Born in Sidon, Lebanon, in 1944, Rafik Hariri, a Sunni Muslim, was not born into wealth, but into a farming family. In 1965, seeking a better life, he moved to Saudi Arabia where he worked as a schoolteacher and accountant before starting his own business. Through hard work and particular skill in the construction industry, former Prime Minister Hariri acquired what many have estimated to be a fortune in excess of \$2 billion.

Mr. Hariri began his involvement in the political and economic life of Lebanon long before he became prime minister. As a Lebanese businessman living in Saudi Arabia, he played a behind-the-scenes role as a mediator, advisor and promoter of cease-fires and agreements to end the civil war that ravaged Lebanon from 1975 to 1990. He invested his time and extensive contacts throughout the world to bring peace to his war-torn country.

In 1984, Mr. Hariri participated in the Geneva and Lausanne conferences to bring about political reconciliation in Lebanon and helped broker initiatives to put an end to the civil war.

In 1989, Mr. Hariri was the power behind the Taif Agreement, which succeeded in ending the war and the drafting of a new constitution for Lebanon. This agreement was the political contract that laid down the principles of national reconciliation that ended a dark chapter in Lebanon's history.

In 1992, he returned to his home country to assume office as prime minister after 28 years of living and working in Saudi Arabia. He formed his first government on October 22, 1992.

He immediately began an ambitious rebuilding program whose crown jewel was the rebuilding of Beirut's war torn central district. Today, this district is a vibrant and beautiful center of commerce and culture that rivals that of the world's other great cities.

Rafik Hariri was a man of peace and a man of diplomacy. He was the kind of man the United States and our allies need as we seek to spread freedom and democracy throughout the Middle East.

I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Hariri on a number of occasions. He was a kind and

humble man and the extent of his generosity towards the people of Lebanon, and those throughout the world, may never be fully known. He used his own personal wealth to give thousands of students the opportunity to gain a college education that they would have otherwise been unable to afford.

Mr. Speaker, it is my expectation that a thorough and internationally validated investigation will uncover many facts about the assassination of Lebanon's former Prime Minister who remained a sitting member of parliament. Rafik Hariri was the leader of a political faction that many thought would take back control of Lebanon's government in parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in May. I know, from my personal meetings with Prime Minister Hariri, that he held deep reservations and misgivings about the continued presence of Syrian troops and Syrian secret police in Lebanon. Most often, it was not what he said, but what he indicated he could not talk about that most starkly expressed the reservations he had about Syria's role in Lebanon.

Following this national tragedy, Lebanon must now try to hold free and fair parliamentary elections in May. It is my fear that the assassination of Mr. Hariri, and the many other past assassinations that have too often gone without significant investigation in Lebanon, will have a chilling effect on freedom of speech and those who would vocally criticize the continued Syrian presence.

To say it plainly, it is time for Syrian troops and all the Syrian secret police to leave Lebanon. The security that Syria once provided is no longer needed and having security only for those who ally themselves with the continued Syrian presence is incompatible with democracy in Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, I support UN Resolution 1559 that demands a, "strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout Lebanon," and for all, "foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon."

Rafik Hariri fought for a democratic and prosperous Lebanon. The United States, even after his death, should continue to press for Prime Minister Hariri's vision for Lebanon and a better Middle East.

BROADCAST DECENCY
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in cautious support of the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005. While I believe the public should be able to trust that the content of programming during peak viewing times is age-appropriate for children, I am concerned that strict regulations, if improperly applied, can result in infringements on our right to free speech.

Parents ought to be able to watch or listen to public broadcasting without fear that obscene material is foisted on their children. The Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) role in encouraging and enforcing decency regulations provides parents with a level of se-

curity that their family can watch television together or listen to the radio on the way to school without concern about the appropriateness of the information for their children.

As our society's values have changed with different trends, the FCC has provided a standard to guide broadcasters and encourage them to take into account the diversity of their audience when making programming decisions. This bill will retain these standards and dramatically increase the amount a broadcaster can be fined for each violation. While I support keeping broadcasters accountable to the public, I believe excessive fines could be a slippery slope toward violations of first amendment rights and public access to a diverse discussion of ideas. I am, therefore, supporting this legislation but with a deep concern that Congress may well have to re-examine the nature of these fines in future legislation, particularly if they have the effect of prior restraint on first amendment freedoms.

In light of recent scrutiny of indecent material, many broadcasters, artists, and performers are looking toward unregulated airwaves, such as cable and satellite radio. If these programs and performers move to these arenas, the quality of public airwaves leaves with them. The free flow of ideas is the cornerstone of our society, and opens the minds of Americans to different ideas, cultures and lifestyles. Public television and radio provides a medium for these ideas to reach all Americans, not just those who can afford it.

So it is with some deep hesitation that I vote for this bill, as I hope it will not set a dangerous precedent of excessive fines and regulation on television and radio content and possibly infringe on our first amendment rights, but instead ensure that broadcasters are aware and accountable for the content which they air.

I am including an editorial printed in the Rocky Mountain News in March 2004, which I think raises important concerns to consider regarding the increase in fines that this bill will administer.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, March 15, 2004]

CONGRESS SHOULD RETREAT IN 'INDECENCY'
WAR

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives stampeded Thursday to pass a bill to appease voters offended by the Superbowl display of Janet Jackson's breast. Unfortunately, all of Colorado's House delegation (with the exception of Mark Udall, who did not vote) displayed a herd mentality.

The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act, H.R. 3717, raises the maximum fine for a decency violation to \$500,000, an amount that applies both to on-air personalities and to broadcast outlets. But because broadcasters often own many outlets, and programs often air in multiple markets, the total fine for even a single slip of the tongue (or the wardrobe) can be astronomical. The legislation was introduced in January, before the Super Bowl, so it is probably just coincidence that the new fine amounts to just about one dollar for each of the more than 500,000 complaints about the halftime show that flooded into the offices of the Federal Communications Commission. But the rapid passage is certainly no coincidence. Public outrage spooked Congress into acting.

The vote was 391-22, with Ron Paul, R-Texas, the lone Republican to stand up against congressional censorship.

A Senate measure, S. 2056, has similar provisions for raising fines, but also suspends

for a year FCC rules about how many media outlets a company can own while the General Accounting Office investigates whether consolidation in the broadcast media is connected with indecency on the airwaves. It's awaiting action by the full Senate.

We're glad there is still lots of full-throated public reaction against sleaze in the media (even if the public is often fickle about what it considers inappropriate). The FCC is supposed to uphold some standards, which is why it monitors complaints and spells out the rules for what constitutes "exhibitionism," "obscenity" and "blasphemy." But the best pressure, we believe, is the voice of thousands of individual consumers making their views known to the companies that market the stuff.

We understand that few politicians, especially with an election nearing, are willing to risk being accused of "defending indecency." But Congress should tread lightly in such matters. A law broad enough to ensure that no one's ear or eye is offended will end up silencing speech—indignation at government policies, for example, expressed in strong language—that ought to enjoy full constitutional protection.

"It's a shame we have to address this issue," declared House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, "but when members of the broadcast industry violate the boundaries of reasonable tolerance, that's exactly what we're forced to do."

Forced? Panicked is more like it, and the spectacle is embarrassing.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CALLING FOR 211 ACT OF 2005"

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to be the lead Democratic sponsor of the Calling for 211 Act of 2005, and I look forward to working with my congressional partner Rep. BILIRAKIS to move this proposal forward.

Every hour of every day, someone in the United States needs essential services for themselves or someone close to them. These services can range from finding an after-school program for a child, to securing care for an aging parent, to finding drug or alcohol counseling. Faced with a myriad of agencies and help lines, many people end up going without services that they need just because they don't know where to start.

When someone calls 2-1-1, an information and referral specialist assesses the caller's needs and determines which service provider is best equipped to handle their problems or crises. These specialists are also trained to determine whether a caller may be eligible for other programs. 2-1-1 service providers maintain comprehensive databases of resources, including federal, state and local government agencies, community-based organizations and private non-profits.

In 2000, the FCC designated 2-1-1 for community information and referral purposes. Today, 2-1-1 reaches 107 million Americans—about 37 percent of the U.S. population—with call centers operational in 31 states and the District of Columbia. The goal of the Calling for 211 Act of 2005 is to ensure that all Americans have access to quality community information and referral services through 2-1-1.

The largest barriers for communities seeking to implement 2-1-1 are funding and awareness. In many states, limited resources have slowed the process of connecting communities with this vital service. Current funding where 2-1-1 is operational comes from diverse sources including non-profits, state governments, foundations, and businesses.

The Calling for 211 Act is strongly supported by the United Way and builds on the ongoing efforts to make it easier to connect people with important community services and volunteer opportunities through the nationwide implementation of 2-1-1. The legislation provides federal matching grants to enable some dramatic and much needed changes to the way people connect to their communities, including: Providing the infrastructure to connect individuals with precise information and social services that address their needs; Empowering the nation to better respond to large-scale emergencies and homeland security needs by relieving pressure on overwhelmed 911 call centers; Providing aggregated data from 2-1-1 systems nationwide to better assess the needs of our communities.

I believe the 2-1-1 system has great potential; this legislation will establish a federal partnership with states and local communities to give more Americans access to 2-1-1 services. By augmenting existing funding from state and local governments, nonprofits, and the business community, we can ensure that 2-1-1 can finally be a truly national system. A small investment at the national level would pay immediate dividends in terms of faster, more efficient responses to non-emergency but still critical situations.

In a crisis no one has time to flip through their phonebook. When an urgent medical or safety issue arises, we dial 911 knowing we can get help anywhere and at anytime. We should expect the same when it comes to tracking down important social services as well.

I urge my Colleagues to support this legislation and help to implement this critical safety net for all Americans.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO HATTIE J. HITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mayersville's unsung hero, Mrs. Hattie J. Hite. Known as Ms. Hattie, Hite is 70 years old and the mother of one deceased daughter, Lillian Hite. She is very instrumental in the community and her church family. Every morning, Mr. & Mrs. Hite prepare and deliver breakfast to elderly citizens in the community.

She prepares meals for all of the church functions. Each May, she hosts a memorial program at church honoring her mother, sister and daughter. She invites family, friends, and community members to come over for breakfast. She is and has been a mother figure to the entire community.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF KHOJALY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for years a number of distinguished Members of this House have come to the Floor of this Chamber every April to commemorate the so-called Armenian Genocide—the exact details of which are still very much under debate today almost 90 years after the events. Ironically and tragically, none of these Members has ever once mentioned the ethnic cleansing carried out by the Armenians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan war which ended a mere decade ago.

Khojaly was a little known small town in Azerbaijan until February 1992. Today it no longer exists, and for people of Azerbaijan and the region, the word "Khojaly" has become synonymous with pain, sorrow, and cruelty. On February 26, 1992, the world ended for the people of Khojaly when Armenian troops supported by a Russian infantry regiment did not just attack the town but they razed it to the ground. In the process the Armenians brutally murdered 613 people, annihilated whole families, captured 1275 people, left 1,000 civilians maimed or crippled, and another 150 people unaccounted for in their wake.

Memorial, a Russian human rights group, reported that "scores of the corpses bore traces of profanation. Doctors on a hospital train in Agdam noted no less than four corpses that had been scalped and one that had been beheaded. . . . and one case of live scalping."

Various other witnesses reported horrifying details of the massacre. The late Azerbaijani journalist Chingiz Mustafayev, who was the first to film the aftermath of the massacre, wrote an account of what he saw. He said, "Some children were found with severed ears; the skin had been cut from the left side of an elderly woman's face; and men had been scalped."

Human Rights Watch called the tragedy at the time "the largest massacre to date in the conflict."

The New York Times wrote about "truckloads of bodies" and described acts of "scalping."

This savage cruelty against innocent women, children and the elderly is unfathomable in and of itself but the senseless brutality did not stop with Khojaly. Khojaly was simply the first. In fact, the level of brutality and the unprecedented atrocities committed at Khojaly set a pattern of destruction and ethnic cleansing that Armenian troops would adhere to for the remainder of the war. On November 29, 1993, Newsweek quoted a senior US Government official as saying "What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their (the Armenians) way. It's vandalism."

This year, as they have every year since the massacre, the leaders of Azerbaijan's Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities issue appeals on the eve of commemoration of the massacre of Khojaly urging the international community to condemn the February 26, 1992 bloodshed, facilitate liberation of the occupied territories and repatriation of the displaced communities.

And every year, those residents of Khojaly, who survived the massacre—many still scattered among one million refugees and displaced persons in camps around Azerbaijan—appeal with pain and hope to the international community to hold Armenia responsible for this crime.

I am pleased to say that on January 25, 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe overwhelmingly adopted a resolution highlighting that "considerable parts of Azerbaijan's territory are still occupied by the Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region." It also expressed concern that the military action between 1988 and 1994 and the widespread ethnic hostilities which preceded it, "led to large-scale ethnic expulsion and the creation of mono-ethnic areas which resemble the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing."

Mr. Speaker, this is not the ringing condemnation that the survivors of Khojaly deserve but it is an important first step by an international community that has too long been silent on this issue. Congress should take the next step and I hope my colleagues will join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate the tragedy of Khojaly. The world should know and remember.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "VIDEO DESCRIPTION RESTORATION ACT OF 2005"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Video Description Restoration Act of 2005." Mr. Speaker, we have a long history in telecommunications policy of trying to ensure that the benefits of technology reach all segments of American society. Our policies, enacted by Congress and implemented by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), has sought to further the three principal goals of telecommunications policy, namely, universal service, diversity, and localism—even as such policy objectives are buffeted by rapid technological change and competition.

For instance, in the late 1980s, the Telecommunications Subcommittee enacted legislation to include a decoder chip in all tele-

visions to ensure that the deaf and hard-of-hearing community had affordable access to closed captioning. While the industry opposed such efforts as being too costly, with exaggerated claims of how much the price of televisions would rise as a result of this mandate, the technology cost was minimal and now turns out to be about a dollar a set. The FCC's video description rules were designed to similarly serve a community, in this case the blind community, in a modest effort to ensure that television was available to that community. Video description is the insertion of narration about the visual setting and background when that information is not already included in the audio portion of the program. Because television is a mainstay for information, news, and family-oriented viewing in the home, it is important that steps are taken, in furtherance of longstanding universal service goals, to reach the blind community.

This bill would restore the video programming rules. Recently the DC Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the rules, alleging that the Commission did not have sufficient authority to promulgate such rules. Passage of this legislation would remove any ambiguity. I believe Congress ought to give the Commission clear guidance that such rules should be reinstated in a way that no court could question the intent of Congress that the Commission should have such authority. Moreover, by approving such legislation, Congress can also establish that such video description rules do not regulate content in violation of any Constitutional protections. Broadcasters are free to air whatever content they wish over the course of a week. The video description rules simply require that a modest portion of such speech be made available to all listeners, including those who cannot see. The regulations would not stipulate which speech is acceptable, favored, or otherwise and broadcasters can choose which speech they wish to make available to the blind community. In fact, rather than infringing upon speech, the rules celebrate it, essentially saying that such speech is so important, so valued, that more Americans deserve to be able to hear it over their public airwaves, as broadcast by public licensees who are required by law to serve the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will move legislation this year to re-instate these important video description rules and look forward to working with all of my colleagues on this issue in the weeks and months ahead.

HONORING FIDEL GONZALEZ

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mr. Fidel Gonzalez.

Fidel Gonzalez practiced law in Cuba and defended many dissidents of the Fidel Castro regime.

Among his various activities in the United States, he has worked as a social worker in the city of New York's Social Welfare Program.

He studied nights and weekends at Fordham University in New York, where he received a Master's Degree in Social Work and graduated with a high grade point average.

When he retired as a social worker, he began working with a well-known law firm in Union City.

In addition, Fidel Gonzalez was an outstanding leader of the Cuban Attorneys Delegation in New York and New Jersey.

He has been a member for many years of the Pan-American Culture Circle, where he has participated in their conferences as coordinator of the historic and literature sessions.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE RECOVERY AND ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE PRISONERS OF WAR OR MISSING

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 18. This bill recognizes the historic commitment of the United States to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status.

I would like to personally thank Mr. FRANKS and Mr. HUNTER for bringing this important Resolution to the floor and I am pleased that the House is taking time out to remember the bravery of the soldiers who participated in the rescue of American and Filipino military prisoners of war.

As Chairman of the Philippines Friendship Caucus, I am pleased that this resolution not only honors the commitment of United States Army units but also recognizes the courage of the Filipino guerrillas.

On April 9, 1942, over 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers became prisoners of war during the surrender on the Bataan Peninsula. The soldiers were forced to march without food or water on the infamous 65-mile trek, known as the Bataan Death March. It is believed that 17,000 captives did not survive the march or the ensuing years as prisoners of war. Many historians call the Bataan Death March the worst military atrocity ever suffered by American soldiers in the history of the United States.

General MacArthur committed forces under his command to make every effort to liberate prisoner of war camps and internment camps. United States Army units and Filipino guerrilla forces successfully conducted rescue missions that liberated innocent civilians, prisoners of war and Filipino citizens. General MacArthur's efforts are an example of the United States' commitment to the recovery and full accounting of our prisoners of war.

I join my colleagues in recognizing this historic commitment and I urge my colleagues to support this Resolution.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH C. THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would

like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Senator Joseph C. Thomas of Yazoo County. Senator Thomas is a graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the Mississippi School of Banking at the University of Mississippi. He is retired as Vice President from AmSouth National Bank after 30 years of service. He has served as the National Treasurer and Executive Vice President of the Friends Amistad, a national organization in support of the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, LA.

Senator Thomas currently serves as board member and chairman of the management committee of the Yazoo County Fair and Civic League, Inc. He served as Chairman of the Policy Council of the American Public Power Association (APPA), which represents about 2,000 not-for-profits, community-owned electric utilities. He is the past president of the Yazoo City Municipal School Board and has been a member of the Mississippi Real Estate Appraisal Board. He was selected by the Mississippi Economic Council as one of the outstanding young men under 35 in 1977. Senator Thomas received the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Award (NAFEO) in 1997. Senator Thomas received the American Public Power Association’s Spence Vanderlin Public Official Award in 1997 in Toronto Canada.

Senator Thomas loves history and has served as Chairman of the Oakes African American Cultural Center since it started in 1992. Senator Thomas is considered to be a noted historian on the subject of African-American history in Mississippi. In 2003, he won the position of Senator of District 21 for the State of Mississippi. He is serving on the Finance, Insurance, Banking Economic Development & Tourism, Education and Judiciary B Committees. Senator Thomas is married to the former Elizabeth Wilburn of Benton, Mississippi and they are the proud parents of three children, Joseph Jr., Kirk and Whitney.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver’s license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act of 2005.

As a member of the 9/11 Commission Caucus, I strongly supported passage on December 7, 2004, of S. 2845, the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004. That legislation took some much-needed and long-overdue steps toward strengthening the system of intelligence sharing and analysis in the United States. The bill implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Report, a comprehensive collection of analyses and suggestions for improving the Nation’s intelligence system, in order that we might never experience another 9/11.

H.R. 418, if enacted, would repeal some provisions of the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004. It would rob States of the ability to issue driver’s licenses and identification cards as they see fit, and further subjects the States to unfunded mandates to conform their driver’s licenses and identification cards to federal standards.

Police forces around the Nation are notably opposed to H.R. 418. They have grave security concerns surrounding the driver’s license provisions of this legislation; the job of law enforcement is made easier when the state Department of Motor Vehicles database contains information on undocumented immigrants. As a former district attorney, I place a high priority on assisting law enforcement however possible.

The asylum provisions included in this legislation are unnecessary, and will not enhance our national security. The provisions needlessly restrict the standards by which motives for persecution would qualify for asylum. I believe such a move could potentially exacerbate and multiply human rights abuses around the world by making it more difficult for victims of such abuses to seek refuge in the United States.

Opposition to H.R. 418 includes a vast array of organizations, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to the American Conservative Union to the National Council of State Legislatures.

I believe strongly in protecting our great Nation from whatever threats exist to it. I do not believe, however, that H.R. 418 is a step in the direction of improving national security.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MCKING ALANIS**HON. RANDY “DUKE” CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of McKing Alanis. A native of the Philippines, Mr. Alanis rose through adversity to humbly serve in the United States Navy for 29 years and six months, and has devoted the past 14 years to my staff.

McKing rose from a raw recruit in the Navy, to the rank of Senior Chief with a lithographers rating. This was particularly difficult because at the time Filipinos were only allowed to serve in the Navy as stewards or in the kitchen. Mac was the outstanding recruit when he graduated from Navy boot camp. He attended the Army Engineer School, Topography-Lithography-Graphics at Ft. Belvoir in Virginia and graduated 2nd in his class of 47. During his tenure in the Navy, McKing was champion of equal rights and equal opportunities. McKing has received numerous awards for his service in the Navy, including 21 letters of commendation.

Prior to joining the Navy, Mac was a disk jockey and radio personality in Naga City, Philippines. In 1965, he used the talent he developed in the Philippines to become a newscaster in his Navy off-time at AFRTS-TV in Kodiak, Alaska.

McKing’s involvement with the Filipino community in San Diego includes service as the President of the Bicol Club of San Diego County in 1979 and Public Relations Officer for the Council of Filipino American Organizations of San Diego County. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Samahan Dance Company from 2000 to 2002, and during that period was also an advisor to the Irigueños of Southern California. Mac is the founder of the Iriga Guys Jesters, a philanthropic organization that raises funds for the poor in Iriga City. In 1997, Mac was called to Washington, D.C. to be recognized by Fil-Am Image Magazine as one of the 20 outstanding Filipinos in the United States and Canada.

For the past 14 years McKing has served as both Community and Military Liaison in the 50th Congressional District of California. One of the original members of my staff, McKing has proved vital in services helping constituents with the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Immigration and Naturalization. McKing estimates that during his 14 years with the district office, he has helped my constituents resolve more than 4,000 cases.

Mac has dedicated his life to what he calls the 3T concept. “Time we cannot keep, talent is not permanent either, and treasure—please share it.” He firmly believes that, “the only things we can really keep are those we give away.”

Mr. Alanis is married to the lovely Susie Gonzaga Salcedo. They have three children, and are the proud grandparents of three grandsons. He has been a strong advocate of family values, equality, and has worked relentlessly to help the disadvantaged. He has been a valuable member of my team and will be missed greatly.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO
HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, 2005 I attended the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center's National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program in Houston, Texas.

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans takes place each year during the week of February 14 to honor the more than 98,000 veterans of the U.S. Armed Services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, outpatient clinics, and nursing homes.

At the Program, Harry E. Dearen of Houston read the following poem he wrote in October 1996 to honor our veterans:

AND THEN I CRY

[By H. Dearen]

Of the price of the days of glory. And then I cry.

For the freedom and the story. And then I cry.

As I think of the wars that have past. And then I cry.

For our countries greatness, it will last. And then I cry.

For old glory and to make things right. And then I cry.

In the lands out over the sea. And then I cry. That for others they might be free. And then I cry.

For every one that heeded the call. And then I cry.

For those that have died for the good of all. And then I cry.

As we honor our veterans this week during the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, I wanted to share this poem with my colleagues.

This poem pays tribute to our veterans, reminds us all of the sacrifices they made, and is a lasting reminder of what they sacrificed for.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
JIMMIE HOLMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

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Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Ameri-

cans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize The Honorable Jimmie Holman of Quitman County. Mr. Holman is the first African-American Mayor of Marks, Mississippi. Mr. Holman was elected Mayor of the Town of Marks, Mississippi in 1987 in a special election to fill an unexpired term and was elected to a full term in the following Mayoral Election. He also holds the distinction of being the first African American Sheriff Deputy of Quitman County, MS.

In 1969 during the organizing effort of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), "Poor People Campaign-March on Washington," the Holman family opened up their home to civil rights workers, one of them Andrew "Andy" Young.

In 1968, Mr. Holman supported his family by working as a plumber at Consumer Gas Company for less than minimum wage when Andy Young and his wife Louise convinced him that he would do better working for himself. The Holman family continued to house and support their guest until they left in June of that year. Following the departure of Andy and his team, Mr. Holman declared his economic independence by becoming his own boss.

Following a four year apprenticeship under Austin Jones, a master bricklayer, Jimmie Holman built his first house. Their next venture, a discount clothing store was opened in 1985, followed by an Amoco Service station and Convenience Store. The Holman's businesses have been successful because of their appeal to all segments of Quitman County for the past twenty years. Jimmie Holman is more than a businessman and former politician; he is a citizen that supports his community.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

TAIWAN STRAIT RELATIONS

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise and join my colleagues in expressing my concerns about China's proposed anti-secession law, which is highly provocative and may cause a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, the proposed law assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, passage of this law can embolden China to legally push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is obviously, a scenario we would not like to see.

Understandably, the 23 million people of Taiwan are very upset over this proposed law, for they have lived under a full-fledged democracy, and enjoyed highest standard of freedom and human rights. Although some people might argue that any country should have the right to enact a domestic law, but if a country's freedom and well-being are endangered because of that law, then the countries who are defenders of freedom and democracy around the world, shouldn't stand aside and tolerate the situation to escalate.

I hope Chinese leaders will exercise their wisdom and not adopt this anti-secession law this March. I also urge the international community to join us to voice their disapproval of this law. Inaction by the United States and other concerned countries will send a dangerous signal to China and encourage China to escalate its political rhetoric against a democratic country.

We do not need any military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or ever. I encourage my colleagues to tell our Chinese friends in Beijing that they should appreciate the contributions that the Taiwanese have made to the Chinese economy. China should also know that Taiwan stands ready to discuss and negotiate any issue with China. The Taiwanese people desire a peaceful coexistence with their Chinese brethren and have no desire to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is important that the U.S. maintain focus and resolve on this issue, and I encourage China to do away with the proposed anti-secession law so as to not upset the balance of peaceful relations in the region.

HONORING SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 185th birthday of Susan B. Anthony, I wish to honor her for her courageous effort in ensuring that all women receive the respect and dignity they truly deserve.

Susan B. Anthony was one of the greatest women advocates in history. She is known not only for her fight to gain women the right to vote, but also for her great courage in fighting for the rights of the unborn.

She was a feminist who fought tirelessly to protect the dignity of motherhood, which she believed to be an inherent right of all women.

I am proud to honor Susan B. Anthony for her dedication to preserving the precious gift of life and I hope that my colleagues will join me in promoting a true culture of life.

THE MURDER OF AMERICAN NUN
DOROTHY STANG

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the killing of Dorothy Stang. She was caught in the crossfire at a settlement of landless peasants established on a state-run development reserve near the town of Anapu, about 1,300 miles north of Rio de Janeiro.

On Saturday February 12, 2005, Dorothy Stang, a 74-year-old American nun, was murdered in Brazil. She was shot four times at point-blank range.

She had been working and living in the region for more than three decades. Ms. Stang was bringing the word of God to the poor and downtrodden, while championing the environmental and human rights of Brazil's impoverished and landless peasants. She had spent

decades fighting illegal loggers and ranchers in the jungle.

Tragically, nine days before her death, Dorothy Stang warned Brazil's Human Rights Minister that she and farmers faced constant death threats and needed protection. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has launched a federal investigation into the case and called a special cabinet meeting.

Dozens of land activists are killed each year in Brazil as they confront militias armed and paid by landowners. Few cases are solved in rural areas, where local police forces are often allied with the landowners.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the government of Brazil to work toward a permanent end to the violence and to disarm and disband all illicit armed militia. I call upon the government of Brazil to implement judicial and police reforms to stem the rising violence, and take immediate measures to protect human rights defenders and land activists from death threats.

President Lula's investigation into this case must be transparent and the perpetrators of this murder must be brought to justice.

CHINA'S PROPOSED "ANTI-SECESSION LAW"

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, after Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian was elected to a second term last March, he has attempted to reach out to China on many occasions in hopes that cross-strait relations could be improved. Unfortunately, China has not responded positively to Chen's many goodwill gestures. The massive Chinese military build-up along the coast continues, China's belligerent rhetoric continues, and China is now planning to enact an "anti-secession (or anti-separation) law" aimed specifically at Taiwan. Understandably, the Taiwanese people have been reacting to this proposed law with alarm. If Chinese leaders persist in passing this law, Taiwan might be forced to enact an anti-annexation law of its own as a proper response to China.

This battle of laws is most unfortunate in view of the fact that cross-strait relations have been improving in recent days. On January 15 this year China and Taiwan agreed to have direct charter flights during the Chinese New Year holidays, and both sides agreed to continue to work toward restoring direct trade, transport and postal ties—the "three links." Moreover, the economies of China and Taiwan have grown increasingly interdependent as Taiwanese businesses have invested as much as \$100 billion in China and as many as one million Taiwanese now live and work on the mainland.

The latest controversy about China's proposed anti-secession law has once again highlighted the political division between China and Taiwan. China is seeking to unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and force its own style of government on the 23 million people of Taiwan. China has totally ignored Taiwan's contributions to China's strong economy and President Chen's repeated gestures of good will.

We must alert everyone that China's latest move to enact the anti-secession law will not only destroy the goodwill between the people of Taiwan and China, it is also unnecessarily provocative and will lead to escalating tension in the Taiwan Strait. Taiwanese people should not sit idly by and allow authoritarian Chinese government to mandate the annexation of democratic Taiwan; neither should any freedom-loving people in the world.

By unilaterally changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, China is also challenging America's will to stand behind the Taiwan Relations Act which says unequivocally that it is the policy of the United States "to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan." The Taiwan Relations Act also affirms one of the objectives of the United States as "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan."

Mr. Speaker, it is my view that China's proposed anti-secession law is provocative and dangerous and poses a grave threat to peace and stability in the region. I urge the Chinese government to step back from confrontation and stay on the path to reconciliation and friendship with the free people of Taiwan.

THE OCCASION OF THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in extending my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh on the anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite with Armenia and reverse the injustice perpetrated by the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

This peaceful and legal request was met with violent reaction by the Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership, and escalated into full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh bravely defended their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a capable armed forces and independent foreign policy.

I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh in celebrating their continuing freedom and democracy.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO JESSIE D. BANKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Ameri-

cans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Jessie D. Banks of Holmes County, Mississippi. A native of Tchula, MS, Mrs. Banks received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1963 and served as an elementary school teacher in Tchula until 1986. Mrs. Banks is not only noted in Holmes County for her long and distinguished career in education, but also for her dedication in public service and the political arena.

Mrs. Banks was elected as the first African-American Alderwoman for the City of Tchula in 1977. Mrs. Banks served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Atlanta in 1988 and in Chicago in 1992. In 1989, she was elected as the first African American woman mayor of the City of Tchula. She was re-elected mayor in 1993. Mrs. Banks returned as a delegate to the DNC in Los Angeles in 2000 and the 2004 DNC convention in Boston.

Mrs. Banks' public service and political career spans many other public endeavors including NAACP President for Holmes county, Commissioner of Regional 6 Housing Authority, and membership in Habitat for Humanity, The National Council of Negro Women and a life member of the National Alumni Association for Mississippi Valley State University.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES EARL MOBLEY, AGRICULTURE 'STATESMAN'

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a personal friend and a longtime resident of Shorterville in Henry County, Alabama in my Congressional district who passed away on February 15.

Among the sizeable farming community in Alabama, James Earl Mobley would need no introduction. He was a tall man both physically and in character. Indeed, for many years in the Halls of Congress, Mobley was also well-known to more than a few agriculture lawmakers.

Considered a 'statesman' of agriculture, Mobley's diplomatic skill, coupled with his vast knowledge of peanut farming, were assets to growers, the industry and Congress. For decades there was probably no stronger, or more

consistent advocate of peanut farming, particularly in the Tri-States region of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, than Mobley. He is credited with helping successfully guide his industry through many farm bills.

A farmer for much of his life, he was an active voice for peanut farmers as the president of the Alabama Peanut Producers Association. His expertise was tapped statewide as well when he served as vice president and a member of the board of directors of the Alabama Farmer's Federation. He was also a board member of the National Peanut Council.

I speak for a great number of present and former lawmakers as well as farmers and friends in expressing my condolences to the family of James Earl Mobley. His gentleman farmer manner and his tireless dedication to agriculture will be sorely missed.

THE U.S. SHOULD EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing my concern about China's proposed anti-secession law, which is highly provocative and may cause a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, the law assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China can legally push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is the worst scenario that we could possibly see.

Understandably, the 23 million people of Taiwan are very upset over this proposed law, for they have lived under a full-fledged democracy, enjoyed the highest standard of freedom and human rights. A similar reaction occurred in Hong Kong when people there learned about the enactment of Article 23 of the Basic Law. Though some people might argue that any country could have the right to enact a domestic law, but if people's freedom and wellbeing might be endangered because of that, then the United States, should not stand by without protesting this threat to democracy.

I hope the Chinese leaders will exercise their wisdom in not adopting this anti-secession law next month. I also hope the international community will join us in voicing their disapproval of this provocative law. Inaction by us will send a dangerous signal to China and encourage it to escalate its political rhetoric and belligerent actions against Taiwan, a beacon of democracy in that region.

We do not need any military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or ever. Let us tell our Chinese friends in Beijing that they should learn to appreciate the contributions that the Taiwanese have made to the Chinese economy. They should also know that Taiwan stands ready to discuss and negotiate any issue with China. The Taiwanese people desire a peaceful coexistence with their Chinese brethren and have no desire to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

THE PATH TO PEACE

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2004, the People's Republic of China announced its intention to include a new "anti-secession law" in its legislative agenda for the upcoming March session. This bill is expected to set up a legal framework for the incorporation of Taiwan. According to press reports, this law will also oblige the Chinese military to invade Taiwan immediately if there is a future Taiwanese "declaration of independence."

There are many potential roads to a resolution of the well-entrenched differences between Beijing and Taipei. China's choice here could result in regional violence, instability and undermine democracy. This law will likely erode any goodwill that has arisen across the Straits over the years. It is in the interest of the region and the United States to see that the negotiations between China and Taiwan be resolved peaceably.

The Bush Administration has said that its policy is to inspire and encourage the growth of democracy. This law, which may compel military force against Taiwan, should signal concern by the Administration. China should not seek to impose its communist government upon the 23 million Taiwanese people.

The Taiwan Relations Act states "that the issues between Beijing and Taiwan be resolved peacefully and with the assent of the people of Taiwan." China's anti-secession law signals a change in the status quo and is a roadblock on the path to peace.

HONORING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRELL ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. On February 23rd, Rotary international will celebrate its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges, and encourage community service.

I also want to provide special recognition to an important member of this outstanding organization, the Rotary Club in Terrell, Texas, on the occasion of their 85th anniversary on December 1, 2004. Throughout its 85 year history, the Terrell Rotary Club has achieved great successes in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Terrell Rotary Club has raised money to combat Polio, bought wheelchairs for people all over the world, collected

food for a food distribution center in Terrell, and provided benches for the city park. In addition, they have assisted with blood drives, helped with the Special Olympics and Relay for Life, and collected books to help support the Head Start program in Terrell. For the past 30 years, they have also issued the Community Service Award for Terrell.

Through these actions, the Rotary Club of Terrell, Texas, has exemplified the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

“THE BROAD-BASED STOCK OPTION PLAN TRANSPARENCY ACT”

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to be the lead Democratic sponsor of the Broad-Based Stock Option Plan Transparency Act of 2005, and I look forward to working with my congressional partner Representative DREIER to move this proposal forward.

As many of my Colleagues are aware, I've long been concerned about the impact of proposed accounting rules on broad-based stock options plans and the employees that benefit from this important employee ownership tool. For a number of years the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has threatened to require stock options to be deducted from a company's earnings. In fact the first bill I introduced as a Member of Congress in 1993 addressed this important issue.

Last Congress, I was the lead Democratic sponsor of similar legislation sponsored by Representative RICHARD BAKER, and cosponsored by Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, Majority Whip ROY BLUNT, and over 130 bipartisan cosponsors. The legislation passed the House by an overwhelming margin of 312-111, but the bill wasn't taken up in the Senate, and in December, FASB finalized its mandatory stock options expensing standard. Without this legislation, FASB's rule will take effect in June and companies will be forced to deduct the estimated cost of all employee stock options from their reported earnings.

FASB's mandatory expensing rule would have a terrible impact on companies that rely on options to recruit and retain the most talented employees. Without stock options many of these companies, including some of the most successful high-tech and biotech firms, would not even exist today. As American companies struggle to stay ahead of our global competitors, it makes no sense to handicap them with these onerous new requirements.

Stock options have become associated with corporate scandals and excessive executive compensation, leading to a call for expensing as the ultimate prescription for these problems. But stock options were not the cause of the corporate accounting scandals, and eliminating stock options would do nothing to instill corporate responsibility or accountability. Stock options are already fully disclosed in corporate earnings statements, and the crimes

committed at Enron, Tyco, and other companies would not have been prevented if expensing had been the accounting rule of the day.

If, however, companies are forced to expense stock options, most will drop or severely limit employee option plans because of the prospect of taking a huge and misleading charge against their bottom line in accounting statements. And if mandatory expensing is implemented, most stock options plans will likely be taken away from rank-and-file employees and reserved exclusively for top executives. This is already occurring in anticipation of the new FASB rule.

It's ironic that many are calling for the expensing of stock options in order to reign in executive compensation, when expensing stock options would do little to accomplish this. Stock option plans or other forms of lucrative compensation for senior executives will undoubtedly continue to be offered.

Rather, rank-and-file employees would be the ones to lose, because they don't get to negotiate with a Board of Directors for their compensation package. Consider this: Only a small portion of employee held options—about 15 percent—are held by corporate management. 14.6 million American workers (13 percent of private-sector workers nationwide) held stock options in 2002.

Some have also argued that FASB's independence must be protected and accounting standards, like other technical rules, should not be set by Congress. While in general this is the case, there are many occasions when expert bodies fail to fully protect the public interest and it's essential that Congress steps in.

For example, the Securities and Exchange Commission, an independent, expert agency, failed to adequately protect investors and the public from the corporate scandals of recent years: Congress stepped in to enact the reforms of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

In this case, FASB has concluded this important rulemaking process without the transparency, deliberation, or justification that Congress and the American public should demand. At the outset of its consideration of the expensing rule, the Board Chairman and other Members announced their positions before a single comment from the public was solicited, proceeded to discourage comments on key questions, and disregarded the overwhelming majority of comments it received. The Board refused to conduct "road tests" of actual valuation models or of the real costs associated with implementing any new standard. They've also refused to respond to recommended alternatives and compromises.

It's not reasonable to dismiss Congress's responsibility in these matters and ignore the serious shortcomings of FASB's rulemaking on a matter with such important and far-reaching consequences for our economy and our global competitiveness.

The Broad-Based Stock Option Plan Transparency Act would simply ensure that the rules are not implemented before the potential impact of mandatory expensing is given full consideration. The bill includes a 3 year moratorium to allow the SEC to study the impact expensing options may have on our economy and on small, entrepreneurial businesses.

Given the radical change the new rules would establish and the potentially devastating impact on employee ownership programs,

Congress has the responsibility to make sure that rules governing stock options are appropriate and implemented responsibly.

Our bill would also enact new disclosure rules for companies who offer stock options. The legislation requires those who offer stock options to disclose additional information to every shareholder and potential investor, including plain-English descriptions of share value dilution, expanded and more prominent disclosure of stock option-related information, and a summary of stock options granted to the five most highly compensated officers.

I urge my Colleagues to support this legislation and protect broad-based employee ownership programs.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN K. PLUM

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable contributions of Brian K. Plum to the Page County Republican Committee during his service as chairman and for his service to the Town of Shenandoah in Virginia's Seventh District.

Brian's dedication to grassroots activism is evident by his many years of service to the Page Committee. At a young age, Brian was active in the party and organized the Young Republicans at Page County High School. During his three years as chairman, Brian continued to work tirelessly to organize and grow the committee. In that time, I had the pleasure of observing Brian's commitment and dedication to our party. His strong leadership and common sense have had tremendous effects on the committee, have ensured its success and growth, and quickly allowed him to gain the respect of many established and active members.

Brian's commitment to his community extends beyond his work as chairman. Brian serves as the treasurer for Citizens of Shenandoah and the Shenandoah Community Library. He is also a volunteer with and member of numerous community organizations including the Shenandoah Heritage Center, Lafayette Lodge #137 and the Shriners. Currently, Brian serves the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Office of the Attorney General as a Senior Budget Analyst. Brian's commitment to service and his desire to work for the good of his community are a remarkable example to all.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in recognizing Brian and offering our most sincere thanks to Brian and his wife, Jenny, for their years of service.

TRIBUTE TO THE LESTER A. DRENK BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Lester A. Drenk Behavioral Health Center, which will celebrate its 50th an-

niversary in 2005. Founded by Judge Lester A. Drenk and the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Burlington County as the Burlington Guidance Center on December 31, 1954, this organization has helped adolescents with serious mental health issues for half a century.

Judge Drenk saw many of these adolescents in his courtroom and felt compelled to help them rather than remand them to the juvenile justice system. Beginning with 16 boys, in a building purchased by the Freeholders, the program has treated over 100,000 consumers since its inception.

Currently serving over 8,700 consumers each year in a variety of programs including the Screening and Crisis Intervention Program; Outpatient Services; Supportive Housing for the homeless mentally ill; Host Homes, a series of programs offering temporary shelter for children; Family Crisis Intervention Unit; School Based Youth Services; Family Matters; and many other services so needed by troubled youth, this vital program continues its mission of assisting those in need in our community.

I congratulate the Drenk Behavioral Health Center on this milestone in their history, and wish them many, many more years of success.

HONORING MICHAEL E. FOX, SR.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on my behalf and the behalf of Mr. MICHAEL HONDA to pay tribute to Mr. Michael E. Fox, Sr. and his lifelong dedication to community service and the public good.

Michael E. Fox, Sr. was born on September 23, 1936 in Chicago, Illinois. Mike graduated high school in 1954 from Campion Prep School in Prairie DuChien, Wisconsin. From there he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1958 and continued on to do his post-graduate work at the Siebel Institute of Technology studying Brewing Science. That training foreshadowed Mike's eventual establishment of M.E. Fox & Company in 1965, a major distribution company in the Silicon Valley. Before Michael made his great entrepreneurial leap, he married Mary Ellen Croke. Mike and Mary Ellen have been married for almost forty-six years and have six children.

Mike is known throughout the Bay Area for his generosity and willingness to help those less fortunate. In countless instances, Mike has used his name to support worthy causes that simply needed the recognition of a respected member of society to open doors to a wider audience. Much of Mike's generosity is due to an upbringing which stressed charity and caring of those around him, regardless of whether he knew them well or not.

Mike's devotion to community is never more apparent than in his service to San Jose's East Side Union High School District. Whether it was providing flatbed trucks for floats, paying SAT testing fees for students who could not afford them, or spearheading the Animation Studio project, Mike used his professional

and personal network to assist staff and students achieve their goals.

Mike's interests are varied and far flung as evidenced by his many board memberships and chairmanships. His main interest centers around his beloved family, his Roman Catholic faith, educational matters at all levels, medical issues, and alcoholism prevention and abuse. From his hard work he built a successful family business, renown throughout the region.

If there is a task force or committee seeking to improve life in Santa Clara Valley, Mike Fox, Sr. is sure to be a valued member, using all his resources to bring about change. Mike served as Chair of United Way Silicon Valley's Board of Directors in 1997 and 1998. His guidance and expertise were instrumental in seeing United Way successfully through a period of financial difficulty and organizational restructuring. He served as Chairman of the Regional Healthcare Consortium where he worked with hospital administrators, colleges, and healthcare providers to protect the quality of healthcare in Santa Clara County. Mike participated in the Silicon Valley Blue Ribbon Task Force on Aviation Security.

Mike is a man who cares about others. I know this first hand, because in the 1970's my father, who was a beer truck driver, found himself out of a job. My dad was recording secretary of Teamster's local 888. He was a hard worker and never missed a day's work. He was renowned for his honesty. But he was having trouble finding employment for two reasons: first, the reluctance of some employers to hire a driver in his 50's and also, he believed, his history of union activism.

Mike Fox gave my dad a job and it made all the difference for our family. So while the public knows of Mike's philanthropy and generosity, I know him from the perspective of the families of those he employed. He was and is a fair man willing to give others a chance to succeed.

My parents have both passed away, but my brother and I will never forget Mike Fox's lasting impact on our lives as have been others in our community who were not so personally connected to the Fox family.

His generosity of spirit afforded opportunities to so very many in our community. We hold a debt of gratitude to Mike and an obligation to continue his work by following his personal philosophy which states, "You can change the world".

INTRODUCTION OF EXPEDITED RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2005—AN EFFECTIVE AND CONSTITUTIONAL TOOL TO COMBAT WASTEFUL SPENDING

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to give the President and Congress new and effective—and, more importantly, constitutional—powers to weed out wasteful Government spending.

Over the last four years, there has been a dramatic change in the federal budget—and it has been a change for the worse. It has gone from annual surpluses to annual deficits, meaning we have gone from debt reduction to

increasing the "debt tax" that our children will have to pay.

In part, this was the result of recession. In part, it was caused by the need to increase spending for national defense, homeland security, and fighting terrorism.

And in large part it was the result of the excessive and unbalanced tax cuts that Congress passed in those same years.

This bill does not directly address those major causes of our budgetary problems. Responding to them will require long-term work on several fronts, including tax policy. But I think this bill can provide one useful tool that will help in the larger effort.

It deals with the increasing number of individual, earmarked items included in appropriations bills.

Some people are opposed to all earmarks. I am not one of them. I think Members of Congress know the needs of their communities, and that Congress as a whole can and should exercise its judgment on how tax dollars are to be spent. So, I have sought earmarks for various items that have benefited Colorado and I will continue to do so.

At the same time, I know—everyone knows—that sometimes a large appropriations bill includes some earmarked items that might not be approved if they were considered separately, because they would be seen as unnecessary, inappropriate, or excessive.

That's why presidents have long sought the kind of "line-item veto" that is available to the governors of several states—and why Congress passed a law attempting to give that authority to President Clinton.

The supporters of that legislation argued that making it possible to cut unnecessary individual items out of a spending bill could help make the government more prudent in the way we spend taxpayer money.

But while the diagnosis was right, the proposed remedy of a line-item veto went too far—further than the Constitution permits. That's why it was struck down in court.

My bill is a better prescription—one that will work and that will pass constitutional muster.

Under this legislation, whenever the President wants to cut a particular spending item in an appropriations bill he would be able to require Congress to reconsider and vote separately on rescinding that item, under tight deadlines and without amendment.

That would be an important change, because while current law authorizes the president to propose rescissions—that is, deletions—from appropriations that Congress has approved, there is no requirement that Congress take any action on those proposals.

My bill would change that by requiring Congress to consider and vote on whether the president's proposed rescissions should be approved.

So, like the line-item veto act, this bill would let the President throw a bright spotlight on spending items and have Congress vote on them separately, up or down, without changes and in full public view.

The bill is entitled the "Expedited Rescissions Act of 2005." It is based on one introduced by my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs which in turn was patterned after, but stronger than, legislation passed by the House in 1993.

Unlike the bill that the House passed in 1993, my bill would not let the Appropriations Committee come up with its alternative way to

rescind the same amount of money that would be cut by the President's proposed rescission. Instead, it would require that the actual rescission proposed by the President—that one, without any amendment, and with no alternative to it—be voted on by the Congress.

Unlike the line-item veto, this bill is constitutionally sound. It does not attempt to give to the President the basic law-making authority that the Constitution vests solely in the Congress. Constitutionally, the line-item veto act could not be effective—it wasn't real. This bill would give the President authority that could be used effectively—it is real.

The President and the Congress alike need to have an effective, constitutionally valid alternative to the line-item veto that can be used to revoke parts of a spending bill that could not withstand a separate up-or-down vote. This bill will meet that need.

For the information of our colleagues, here is an outline of the bill's provisions:

OUTLINE OF EXPEDITED RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2005

The bill would amend the Budget Act by adding a new section providing for expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions.

The new section would authorize the president to propose rescission of any budget authority provided in an appropriations Act through a special message that includes a draft bill to make that rescission. The new section would require the House's majority leader or minority leader to introduce that bill within two legislative days. If neither did so, any Member could then introduce the bill.

The House Appropriations Committee would be required to report a bill introduced pursuant to the new section of the Budget Act within seven days after introduction. The report could be made with or without recommendation regarding its passage. If the committee did not meet that deadline, it would be discharged and the bill would go to the House floor.

The House would debate and vote on the bill within 10 legislative days after the bill's introduction. Debate would be limited to no more than four hours and no amendment, motion to recommit, or motion to reconsider would be allowed. If passed by the House, the bill would go promptly to the Senate, which would have no more than 10 more days to consider and vote on it. Debate in the Senate would be limited to 10 hours and no amendment or motion to recommit would be allowed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed two votes on February 15th, 2005. One to recognize the contributions of Jibreel Khazan (Ezell Blair, Jr.), David Richmond, Joseph McNeil, and Franklin McCain, the "Greensboro Four", to the civil rights movement and another to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 Montgomery Road in Altamonte Springs, Florida, as the "Arthur Stacey Mastrapa Post Office Building." Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on both rollcall 32 and rollcall 33.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF
TOLEDO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the City of Toledo's 100th birthday. For a century this Oregon town has stood on the shores of Yaquina Bay at the foot of Oregon's Coast Range.

From the beginning Toledo grew and prospered because of the area's abundant natural resources, and timber has long provided the economic base for the community. In its early days, many small sawmills processed the surrounding lumber while the closely located waterways provided easy transport. World War I brought the U.S. Army Signal Corps to Toledo to build a large sawmill and logging railroads into the woods, providing the small town the infrastructure to harvest the nearby stands of spruce and fir. Today, Georgia-Pacific's factory in Toledo remains one of the largest employers in Lincoln County, and Plum Creek Timber continues to manage timberlands in the Coast Range to ensure that timber will remain an abundant resource in Toledo's future.

Toledo has seen a lot in its 100 years. It has faced many changes, yet throughout it all, it is still thriving, ready to face another century. So, Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this 17th day of February, 2005 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Toledo and convey my warmest regards to its residents.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF STEPHEN
LEITER

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the tragic and untimely passing of Stephen Leiter who was an outstanding attorney and business leader in the Long Island community. Most importantly, however, Steve Leiter was a close friend to me and countless other Long Island residents.

I had the privilege of knowing Steve Leiter and his wife Glenda for more than thirty years. During that time I always marveled how Steve could be so active in so many businesses, community, political and sports endeavors, be a loving husband and father, and still have so much time for his friends.

Steve Leiter was extraordinarily successful in his professional life, but even more so in his personal friendships. He was always there for those who needed him and he always had a ready smile and warm greeting for you.

I express my sincere condolences to Steve's widow Glenda, his son David, who worked for me several years ago, and his daughter Lindsay. As tragic as Steve's passing is, I hope that Glenda, David and Lindsay will find consolation in the knowledge that Steve Leiter's memory will be cherished by so many. May he rest in peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZENS
INVOLVEMENT IN CAMPAIGNS
(CIVIC) ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, Rep. PAUL KANJORSKI and I are introducing bipartisan legislation to establish a program of limited tax credits and tax deductions to get average Americans more involved in the political process. This bill, the Citizens Involvement in Campaigns (CIVIC) Act, will broaden the base of political contributors and limit the influence of big money donors in federal elections.

We need to take a fresh look at innovative approaches to campaign finance reform, with special attention paid to ideas that encourage, and not restrict, greater participation in our campaigns. Toward this end, I have been advocating tax credits and deductions for small political contributions for many years. An updated tax credit system would be a simple and effective means of balancing the influence of big money donors and bringing individual contributors back to our campaigns. The impact of this counterweight will reduce the burden of raising money, as well as the appearance of impropriety that accompanies the money chase.

Most would agree that the ideal way to finance political campaigns is through a broad base of donors. But, as we are all painfully aware, the economic realities of modern-day campaigning lead many candidates to focus most of their efforts on collecting funds from a few large donors. This reality alienates many Americans from the political process.

The concept of empowering small donors is not a new idea. For example, from 1972 to 1986, the federal government offered a tax credit for small political contributions. This provided an incentive for average Americans to contribute to campaigns in small amounts while simultaneously encouraging politicians to solicit donations from a larger pool of contributors. Currently, six geographically and politically diverse states (Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia, Arkansas, and Arizona) offer their own tax credits for political contributions. These state-level credits vary in many respects, but all share the same goal of encouraging average Americans to become more involved.

The CIVIC Act can begin the process of building this counterweight for federal elections. This bill is designed to encourage Americans who ordinarily do not get involved in politics beyond casting a vote every two or four years (that is, if they bother to vote at all) to become more active participants in our political process.

The CIVIC Act will reestablish and update the discontinued federal tax credit. Taxpayers can choose between a 100% tax credit for political contributions to federal candidates or national political parties (limited to \$200 per taxable year), or a 100% tax deduction (limited to \$600 per taxable year). Both limits, of course, are doubled for joint returns. As long as political parties and candidates promote the existence of these credits, the program can have a real impact and aid in making elections more grassroots affairs than they are now.

A limited tax credit for political contributions can be a bipartisan, cost-efficient method for

helping balance the influence of large money donors in the American electoral process. Instead of driving away most Americans from participation in political life, we can invite them in. It seems to me that this will be a fruitful way to clean up our system, while at the same time convincing Americans that they actually have a meaningful stake in elections.

HONORING NASHVILLE'S HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I am honored today to pay tribute to Nashville's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University. These institutes of higher learning are among the more than 115 HBCU's across the United States. While originally founded to teach freed slaves to read and write, today they welcome and educate students from a wide range of races and ethnic backgrounds.

Fisk University's founding can be traced back to the days following the abolishment of slavery in America. Six months after the Civil War ended and two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, the first classes at Fisk University began on January 9, 1866. On this date, former slaves from the young to the very old openly began their quest for learning. No longer having to hide books that were forbidden to them, they could express their passion and enthusiasm for learning and pursue the path to true freedom and dignity . . . education. Since its inception, Fisk's faculty and alumni have been among the most intelligent, creative and civic-minded individuals in America. Amid its many graduates have been W.E.B. DuBois—the great writer, social critic and co-founder of the NAACP, and Booker T. Washington—the great educator and founder of Tuskegee University. Thurgood Marshall, who later became the first African-American Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, participated in the famous Fisk Race Relations Institute. Today, 68 percent of Fisk's attendees are African American.

During the reconstruction period in the United States, the health of poor Americans received little attention and Nashville had the worst mortality rate in the country. The most dismal health conditions were among the blacks who suffered disproportionately from death and disease. In October 1876, the Meharry Medical College was founded and established as the Meharry Medical Department of Central Tennessee College by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This college was formed to educate freed slaves and bring health care to the community's poor and underserved. Meharry has continued in that custom, and now is home to the Lloyd C. Elam Community Mental Health Center and the United States' first Institute on Health Care for the Poor and Under-served. Meharry is the largest private, historically black institution that is dedicated to educating healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists in America. Over-one-third of the black

physicians and dentists currently practicing in the United States graduated from Meharry Medical College. A significant number of these graduates practice medicine in under-served rural and inner-city communities. Meharry's student population is over 70 percent African American.

In harmony with the goals of HBCU's, Tennessee State University began offering two-year degrees to African American students in 1912. In 1922 it became a four-year teachers college and in 1958 was elevated to a full-fledged land-grant university by the Tennessee State Board of Education. Tennessee State University has been consistently named in the U.S. News & World Reports Guide to America's Best Colleges. The University continues serving a diverse group of students under the motto . . . "enter to learn, go forth to serve." Its African American population is 78 percent.

In addition to these HBCU's, I would also like to recognize the American Baptist College of Nashville, formerly known as the American Baptist Theological Seminary. Along with Fisk University, this seminary was a site of the civil rights movement and graduated our esteemed colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who was one of the nation's key leaders in the civil rights struggle and is now referred to as the conscience of the U.S. Congress.

In honor of Black History Month and on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I congratulate Historically Black Colleges and Universities for their continued service in providing excellence in education not only to African Americans, but all races and ethnic groups that pursue higher learning. I also salute the American Baptist College and the many other institutions of higher education that continue to bring forth the best and brightest.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE DR.
RUSSELL KING HELTSLEY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. Russell King Heltsley of Hopkinsville, KY, for his contributions to his community, church and family. Dr. Heltsley passed away on December 13, 2004. Dr. Heltsley was a founder of the Hopkinsville, Kentucky Crime Stoppers, a member of the Lions Club and served on the board of directors for the Christian County Health Department. Dr. Heltsley was born on January 26, 1933. He was the son of the late King and Nola Withers Heltsley.

Dr. Heltsley served Hopkinsville as an optometrist for more than 40 years. He successfully owned and operated Heltsley Eye Care. In addition, Dr. Heltsley served his country in the United States Army as a First Lieutenant.

Dr. Russell Heltsley was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was known for his dedication to his family.

I appreciate this opportunity to add his eulogy to the Congressional RECORD of the 109th Congress.

FOR EVERY REMEMBRANCE OF RUSSELL
PHILIPPIANS 4: 8-9; PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

DECEMBER 16, 2004.

Fredrick Buechner, preacher and writer, wrote a book back in 1984 entitled, A Room

Called Remember. In Chapter 1, last page, he makes an insightful statement. "Remember him who himself remembers us as he promised to remember the thief who died beside him. To have faith is to remember and wait, and to wait in hope is to have what we hope for already begin to come true in us through our hoping."

We are coming up on the 4th Sunday in Advent, 2004. It is the season for remembering and hoping. It is a time of remembering and waiting. It is a season of hope.

In the Epistle lessons from Philippians just read, the missionary apostle says to his fellow Christians: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you all, making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel . . ."

As members of the community of faith, each of us has our own remembrances of Dr. Russell Heltsley.

Helen, you will remember the time you had Russell over to your parents' home when you were dating. Thinking you had prepared the delicious meal, seeing only your mother in the kitchen upon his arrival, gave him a lot of concern. Later, he admitted to you, "It bothered me a lot."

You will remember Russell coming home from the hospital following your surgery, and eating the food you cooked before entering the hospital, and hearing him tell me he was cooking for you. I thought that sounded strange and you confirmed later that all Russell was doing was warming up the food you had cooked.

John and Russ, you will always remember your dad telling you boys, "Always do what's right, whether or not it is popular." May his tribe increase. Russ and John, you will long remember how proud he was of his family. The entire family will remember his greatest disappointment in life was not living to see his grandchildren grow up. You who are members of the Lions Club will remember Helen coming to help clean up because her husband couldn't do his part by helping with the cooking.

Members of the Kentucky Optometry Association will remember Russell, who held every position in the Association, as the one who always watched the "purse strings". Why am I not surprised?

All of Russell's friends will remember, for whatever reason, he seldom ate out. Conservative? Yes!

I will remember Russell as a devoted member of First United Methodist Church where I served twice as one of his pastors. He was so predictable, even in his seating patterns. Confirmed in 1947 by Dr. A. C. Johnson, he remained faithful to his confirmation vows for the rest of his life.

Grandchildren, you will remember him as a controlling grandparent who loved you very much. Russell had a good sense of humor. After fitting me with my first pair of glasses in the late 1970's, he reminded me that First Methodist folk would now think they have "an old preacher". We will remember his love for the farm and his dogged support of the Kentucky Wildcats.

In these verses from Philippians 1 and 4, Paul, the Missionary Apostle, is speaking to the Philippian congregation. In the first passage, he says to his fellow Christians: "I thank my God in all y remembrance of you all, making my prayer with joy, thankful for your sharing in the gospel . . ." Memory is a gracious gift from God Almighty. We don't know when our memory will be taken from us and we will be poor indeed. I well remember those early days of my ministry at Hopkinsville First Church, and his family members are part of that memory bank.

Today, we can say Russell has "fought a good fight, has finished his course, and has kept the faith." In Philippians 4: 8-9, Paul

admonishes his friends in the church to a life of piety. These six qualities of a committed life were the qualities of Russell's life:

Whatever is true: Little did I know in 1977, when I became Russell's pastor, I would be entertaining an angel unawares. He taught that young minister, through his dedicated life to Christ, how to act conscientiously, by the standards of truth based on Holy Writ. Russell's convictions were based on what he believed the truth to be. The truth was never negotiable. He lived the lesson of truth! Yes, he did!

Whatever is honorable: Russell was truly a gentleman. A Christian gentleman. An honorable gentleman. The *Interpreter's Bible* reminds us that the Greek word literally translated, reads: "worthy of reverence". Very fitting, huh? His code of ethics was based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. He didn't have a copy of either posted on his front lawn. Didn't need to!

Whatever is just: Russell lived out the doctrine of justice. In his daily life, and in all his social contacts, he was a fair and just gentleman. He always played by the rules of fairness, compassion and justice.

Whatever is pure: A good translation of these words is this: "Purify yourself of all mean spirits." Russell didn't have a mean bone in his body. No he didn't! Stubborn, but not mean! You know something? He never, not one time, told me "Howard, I have purified myself of all mean spirits." He just quietly went about the business of living a good life.

Whatever is lovely: Again, the *Interpreter's Bible* says the original meaning was, "Whatever is worthy of love." (Agape). Russell had a love relationship with all of us, which was directly related to his love for our Savior Jesus Christ. Now, separated by almost 30 years from the time I first met Russell, that memory is just as vivid as ever. He loved the Lord. He loved his brothers and sisters in Christ. He loved his family!

Whatever is gracious: The King James Version translates the statement this way: "Whatever thing are of good report." I like that. Don't you? Russell blessed me with his positive and loving spirit. He was truly gracious, always of a good report. That's Russell. Always spoken well of. Always held in honor. The time I have left in this world, I sincerely want to put these qualities to work in my life. Things I have observed in Russell.

Following Russell's death, "Rock-a-Bye Baby" was being played on the hospital intercom in celebration of the birth of a baby. Russell would have liked that.

CONCLUSION

Thank God of every remembrance of this wonderful servant of Christ. J.B.F. Wright wrote the words of an old Gospel song which is part of my yesterdays of faith. Verse one is my favorite:

"Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul:
How they linger, ever near me,
And the sacred past un-fold."

Kipling's beautiful poem says it all:

WHEN EARTH'S LAST PICTURE IS PAINTED
RUDYARD KIPLING (1982)

When Earth's last picture is painted and the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colours have faded, and the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest, and, faith, we shall need it—lie down for an eon or two,

Till the Master of All Good Workmen shall put us to work anew!

And those that were good shall be happy: they shall sit in a golden chair;
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas with brushes of comets' hair;
They shall find real saints to draw from—Magdalene, Peter, and Paul;

They shall work for an age at a sitting and never be tired at all!

And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame,
But each for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things as They Are!

652ND ENGINEER COMPANY FAMILY READINESS AWARD WINNER FOR 2004

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the friends & family of the brave men and women of the 652nd Engineer Company. Their duty and sacrifice are appreciated by all Americans, and it is right that we pay recognition to them today for receiving the Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award for 2004. This award is being presented to recognize the top unit from each Reserve component that demonstrated outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness. This award is a great honor and our nation congratulates you.

New challenges facing our nation demand increased vigilance on the part of our armed services. With these increased demands, the role of the National Guard and reserve forces is critical in providing the total force necessary to ensure our nation's security. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with many National Guard and reserve members from western Wisconsin who have been called to service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Over 2,200 members of the Wisconsin Air and Army National Guard are serving on active duty. The people of western Wisconsin are proud of their service and the service of all the men and women of our armed forces during this important time in our nation's history.

In the past two years, I have visited Iraq twice and have seen first hand what a fantastic job our soldiers are doing to give the people of Iraq hope for a better future. Although the road ahead will be tough, I know the efforts of the 652nd contributed greatly to our ongoing mission in Iraq.

In addition, over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to meet with many National Guard and Reserve members and families from western Wisconsin who have been called up in support of operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. I had the special privilege of attending one of the 652nd Engineer Company's family support meetings. I know from first hand experience the quality of this family support group. I would like to especially recognize Cheryl Iverson, the family support coordinator for the 652nd. I know her hard work and sacrifices are greatly appreciated by the families and members of the 652nd.

The American people and the Congress of the United States stand behind our armed service members and their families. As our military operations continue, I, and other members of Congress, will continue to work to en-

sure that our service men and women have all the resources necessary to do their job safely and effectively.

The efforts of our service people do not come without sacrifice. A member of the 652nd, Private First Class Bert E. Hoyer, 23, of Ellsworth, died on March 10, 2004, in Baqubah, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He paid the ultimate price to enhance our security and protect our liberties; he also gave the people of Iraq the greatest gift of all: their freedom. I want to extend my heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends. Young leaders like this exemplify all that is good and decent about America.

Once again I would like to congratulate the families and friends of the 652nd on this prestigious award. America is firmly behind our troops, and we're all hoping to see them home safe, secure, and soon.

May God bless our troops and their families during these deployments, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, OHIO

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute Champaign County, Ohio, in my congressional district, which is celebrating its bicentennial on March 1. Champaign County is an area rich in history and tradition that prides itself as a fine place to work, live and raise a family.

Champaign County takes its name from a French word describing its flat surface. It became the 18th of Ohio's 88 counties on March 1, 1805. The area was first inhabited by the North American Indian mound builders and became the hunting grounds of the Shawnee tribe. As the State of Ohio grew, Champaign County also grew in business and agriculture. Of particular note was the great success of the railway industry.

During the Civil War, this small county sent 3,235 men to fight for the Union Army. A memorial, the Man on the Monument, stands in the town square of Urbana to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by 578 soldiers from Champaign County.

Champaign County has continued to thrive with successful businesses, industry and agriculture for 200 years. It boasts five school systems and one accredited university in the county seat of Urbana. Urbana University, founded in 1850, has 24 majors for students and houses the largest collection of Johnny Appleseed memorabilia and information known to exist. Today, 36,000 people live and work in the county's city, towns and villages.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Champaign County on this momentous occasion. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the county's success over the past 200 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GEORGE HODDY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. George Hoddy and to pay tribute to his lifetime of achievements and service to the city of Owosso and people of the State of Michigan. On March 7, 2005, Mr. Hoddy will be celebrating his 100th birthday and deserves recognition for his lifetime of service to his community.

Born in Columbus, Ohio in 1905 and educated at the Ohio State University, George Hoddy came to Michigan armed with a Masters degree in electrical engineering to work for Charles Kettering. In 1942, after several roles as a research engineer for various electric companies, George Hoddy started the Universal Electric Company in Owosso, Michigan. Owosso has been forever touched by the roots Mr. Hoddy has put down there, his legacy of community involvement will not be forgotten by the people who call it home.

In the last 60 years, Mr. Hoddy has served on the Board of Directors for over twenty community organizations in the city of Owosso including an eighteen year tenure on the Owosso Public School Board and fifty years of service and support of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Hoddy has served as the Director of the Michigan United Way, President of the Shiawasee county United Way. Has been a member of the United States Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and Owosso Rotary Club. Mr. Hoddy has also served as the Chairman of the Board of Regents for Baker College and continues to serve as a Regent today.

Mr. Speaker, George Hoddy is responsible for enriching the Owosso community and has been instrumental in the industrial and economic development of Owosso, Michigan. He is an inspiration to all those who have the opportunity to meet him. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifetime of achievements of George Hoddy and to wish him all the very best as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

FREEDOM FOR CLARO SÁNCHEZ ALTARRIBA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Claro Sánchez Altarriba, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sánchez Altarriba is a member of the Movement of Cuban Young People for Democracy. He knows with certainty that Cuba needs to be liberated from the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Through peaceful activity, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba has been a courageous voice against the totalitarian regime and their continued acts of tyranny and terrorism.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba has suffered harassment for

his activities, including being detained in the grotesque gulag and fined in October, 2002. Despite the continued threat of brutal retaliation for his peaceful activities, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba continued to believe in, and advocate for, freedom for the people of Cuba. Unfortunately, as part of the tyrant's heinous, March 2003, island wide crackdown on peaceful pro democracy advocates, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba was arrested by the dictatorship. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Sánchez Altarriba is currently languishing in an inhuman gulag because of his belief in democracy. According to a letter written by fellow prisoner of conscience Léster González Pentón and published by M.A.R. por Cuba:

A cement wall is all that separates both jails, but that one has a tougher regime than this one, several guards hitting defenseless people inside the jails using "marabu" sticks. That is the reason why many prisoners suffer from aches and sicknesses behind bars, worsened by lack of medical care, this being the reason for self-inflicted wounds as a way to get care. Thousands of mosquitoes, rats, crawl around as in their own home, with the worst hygiene conditions. Eight of us brothers in the cause were removed from the cells. There only remains Claro Sánchez Altarriba, from Santiago de Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that human beings are locked in this barbarously inhuman gulag because they believe that all men and women have a right to freedom and democratic government. While the entire world sits by and ignores the suffering of the Cuban people, brave men and women like Claro Sánchez Altarriba represent the best of mankind. My Colleagues, we must demand freedom and human rights for all people, especially those who live under the darkness of totalitarian regimes. We must demand immediate and unconditional freedom for Claro Sánchez Altarriba and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing my strong concern regarding China's proposed Anti-Secession Law. This unilateral initiative by the People's Republic of China, PRC, is a very provocative move that could permanently destroy the balance in the Taiwan Strait.

This proposed law, which will be voted on as early as March in the full Chinese National People's Congress, is more than just propaganda. The law assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the rights to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China can legally pursue unification of Taiwan by military force.

Because I believe this will challenge the wishes of the 23 million people of Taiwan who have chosen a democratic system of governance, I sincerely urge Chinese leaders to

abide by the wishes of the Taiwanese people and not adopt the Anti-Secession Law this March. I also urge the international community to join us in voicing their disapproval of this confrontational law.

THE BIRTH OF MADALYN ELIZABETH PRIEST

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth of Madalyn Elizabeth Priest. My Legislative Director, Matt Priest, and his wife Lisa welcomed little Madalyn into the world on January 31, 2005. Weighing 7 pounds 3 ounces, Madalyn has already become the pride and joy of her happy parents.

With each new birth we are reminded of just how precious life is and how amazing a design God has created in us all. We also have an opportunity to reflect on the role this body can play in protecting human life at its most innocent and vulnerable stage.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing condolences to the family of Mr. Hariri, the families of others killed in the attack that took Mr. Hariri's life, and the people of Lebanon. While I support this legislation expressing sorrow over the murders, I do have some concerns that H. Res. 91 is being waved as a red flag to call for more U.S. intervention in the Middle East.

It is unfortunate that tragic occurrences like these are all too often used by those who wish to push a particular foreign policy. We don't really know who killed Mr. Hariri. Maybe an agent of the Syrian government killed him. Then again any of several other governments or groups in the Middle East or even beyond could be responsible. But already we are hearing from those who want to use this murder to justify tightening sanctions against Syria, forcing Syrian troops to leave Lebanon immediately, or even imposing U.S. military intervention against Syria. Just yesterday we heard that the U.S. ambassador to Syria has been withdrawn.

The problem is that these calls for U.S. intervention ignore the complexities of Lebanon's tragic recent history, and its slow return from the chaos of the civil war—a revival in which Mr. Hariri played a praiseworthy role. We should remember, however, that it was the Lebanese government itself that requested assistance from Syria in 1976, to help keep order in the face of a civil war where Maronite Christians battled against Sunnis and Druze. This civil war dragged on until a peace treaty was agreed to in 1989. The peace was maintained by the Syrian presence in Lebanon. So, while foreign occupation of any country

against that country's will is to be condemned, it is not entirely clear that this is the case with Syrian involvement in Lebanon. Hariri himself was not a supporter of immediate Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. What most won't say here is that Syria has indeed been slowly withdrawing forces from Lebanon. Who is to say that this is not the best approach to avoid a return to civil war? Yet, many are convinced that we must immediately blame Syria for this attack and we must "do something" to avenge something that has nothing whatsoever to do with the United States.

So, while I do wish to express my sympathy over the tragic death of Rafik Hariri, I hope that my colleagues would refrain from using this tragedy to push policies of more U.S. interventionism in the Middle East.

HONORING A.J. YATES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURE AS AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to my friend and fellow Californian, A.J. Yates, who has served as Administrator of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for the past four years. It has been an honor to work with him on legislative matters involving agriculture, and many of us here on the Hill have come to rely on his expertise.

President Bush appointed A.J. Yates AMS Administrator in September 2001 to oversee more than 50 programs designed to maintain a stable marketing environment for the benefit of America's farmers, ranchers, and consumers. AMS accomplishes this mission through federal marketing orders, research and promotion programs, the federal-state marketing improvement program, and the wholesale marketing development program. Agricultural transportation issues, market regulatory laws, market news, and federal grading and certification are other tools the agency uses to help ensure a steady supply of high quality food on American tables.

Mr. Yates brought to AMS many years of experience in both the agriculture industry and state government, and USDA and the American people have benefited greatly from his expertise. His background is quite impressive. Mr. Yates served as Deputy Secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, CDFA, from August 1991 to December 1996 and as Under Secretary until January 1999. During his tenure at CDFA, Mr. Yates helped provide leadership to the CDFA's seven divisions and developed and implemented policy for California's agricultural industry and consumers. After leaving CDF A, Yates was a senior marketing consultant with Panagraph Marketing Solutions in Fresno, CA.

Mr. Yates graduated from California State University at Fresno in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in agronomy. As a life-long farmer from Kerman, California, he has been actively involved in organizations supporting agriculture and education, serving as President of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, State Director of the California Sugar Beet Growers Association, and Director of the Mid-Valley Irrigation District.

While at AMS, Mr. Yates has proven to be a tireless advocate for the long-term survival and economic well-being of America's farms. His leadership has proven crucial in several issue areas important to America's farmers, including the management of Federal marketing orders and the Fruit and Vegetable Advisory Committee and launching the implementation of the organic program.

AMS employees wish Mr. Yates the best as he returns to California to spend time with his wife Joyce and their three sons. I, too, wish him well and join my colleagues in commending him on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO 1LT ANDREW C.
SHIELDS

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am moved to commend to this House a thoughtful eulogy commemorating the life of one of America's finest: 1LT Andrew C. Shields.

The eulogy was written and delivered by Brandon Steelman at First Lieutenant Shield's funeral at New Prospect Baptist Church, Campobello, South Carolina, on December 18, 2004.

EULOGY FOR A FALLEN SOLDIER: FIRST LT.
ANDREW C. SHIELDS

This past week has been filled with things that quite simply can't be understood. While there are many larger and more profound mysteries, one of the smaller mysteries I've faced this week is why Andrew would have me give these remarks today. Certainly, he had many friends who knew him just as well, if not better, than I did. And certainly he loved his family above all others. Each of those family members would be better suited to make these remarks today; after all, I didn't spend my childhood dressing like him as Philip did! But I think I'm here because Andrew would be too uncomfortable watching a beloved family member stand and undoubtedly cry in remembrance of him. But he was always OK when I stood up to embarrass myself. In fact, he encouraged it. So I can't think of a better way to embarrass myself on Andrew's behalf than to start with me, crying like a baby, when I first heard the horrible news we've all been trying to accept this past week.

One of my first thoughts was to turn to the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. In it I quickly found a prayer I'd like to share. Entitled For those in the Armed Forces of our Country, it reads: . . .

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our Armed Forces, at home and abroad.

Defend them, day by day, with your heavenly grace;

Strengthen them, in their trials and temptations;

Give them courage, to face the perils which beset them;

And grant them a sense of your abiding presence, wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

I read that prayer three times: the first time, I was too overcome with emotion to finish; the second, I was overcome with guilt for not having said that prayer every day Andrew had been away. But when I read it a

third time, I realized Andrew didn't need my prayerful requests on his behalf. This prayer asks for a few important things, but Andrew had each of those, and it didn't take a friend reciting an old prayer to make them real for him.

The prayer asked for strength in his trials, but, Andrew was already strong. He had a physical strength, sure: he ultimately got bored wrestling me so he turned it into a game of seeing how many times he could spin me in the air before pinning me to the ground. But it wasn't just physical strength that impressed so many people about Andrew. He had a strength of character. Without that, how does one put on hold a rewarding career, a promising salary, and the potential of finding his dream girl, all to leave the comfort of his newly constructed house for a far away land and a mission? Yes, Andrew had strength.

The prayer asks for the benefits of heavenly grace. But Andrew's faith was already based on grace. In a generation where it's not cool to embrace religion, and not cool to hold yourself to unwavering moral principles, Andrew was a rare example of someone who not only incorporated religion into their weekly schedule, but who let it guide every aspect of his life. Andrew's soul was defended by grace long before I read that prayer.

The prayer concludes by asking God to grant a sense of His abiding presence. But those of us here are already comforted by Andrew's faith, courage, and strength. We find comfort knowing that as we say the words, "wherever he may be," Andrew maintains a sense of God's abiding presence, for he is graciously embraced by the spirit of our Heavenly Father.

This prayer helps me, even though initially too difficult to read, because it reassures me to know Andrew's faith guided his life and protects him beyond his death.

With a loss as great as Andrew, no single prayer will bring us the comfort we seek. In search of that reassurance, I visited a war memorial near my house. Inscribed there, in black marble, is a quote by George Washington. In words too long to recite today, he calls us to honor our nation's veterans, for it's our appreciation now that will determine the willingness of future generations to serve in wars to come. That quote reminded me of how inspired Andrew had been by his father's military service, and how proud he was to serve as an aviator for the country that brought aviation to the world. He considered the military an extended family and would have been honored to know that, as George Washington alluded, in honoring Andrew today, we prepare future generations to join his extended family and defend our nation as he so bravely did.

Shortly, uniformed pallbearers will place Andrew's body on a horse-drawn carriage and, with full honors, give him a farewell worthy of his immeasurable sacrifice. But it's important to remember that Andrew never embraced recognition.

Before he left for Iraq, he visited a class of second graders, who embraced him and adopted him as their pen-pal. He was flattered when some of them asked for his autograph, but told us later that he hadn't done anything heroic. As we all know, Andrew is a hero. Those second graders recognized that, as many of us did. But he didn't embrace our recognition. In the wake of Sept 11, when he was learning to fly his Apache, I spoke to him of his heroism, but he humbly dismissed me, quickly joking that I must have been drinking. Similarly, he would have blushed to see this much support today, and while graciously accepting the honor bestowed upon him by a grateful nation, he would want us to remember him for those great moments he shared with us in life.

My sister, for example, said she will remember him as a giant snowball tumbling down the ski slopes as were tried to snowboard for the first time. I think memories like that would make him happy. In his humility and simple faith, we would bring him the most joy if today we honor him for the hero he is, and tomorrow we remember him for the great person he was.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONGRESSIONAL PAGE EDWIN ROBINSON

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edwin Robinson, an exemplary young man who recently completed a semester of service to the House of Representatives through the Congressional Page Program.

Mr. Robinson is a junior at Wyandanch Memorial High School, where he has one of the highest grade point averages in his class. Outside the classroom, Edwin takes part in his school's Junior Military Program, where he demonstrates leadership and civic responsibility to younger students and his community. He is also an active member of the First Church Ministries where he serves as Vice President, an Usher, a member of the Sunbeam Choir and Sunday school teacher.

Edwin is a member of the 2004 Town of Babylon Minority Internship Program, Ujima, a Swahili word that means collective work and responsibility. Ujima seeks to introduce a select group of high school students to the inner workings of local government, provide an environment where they can develop a one-on-one relationship with elected officials, and enable them to develop their professional skills in the workplace.

Through this experience and his semester as a page on Capitol Hill, I have no doubt that Edwin has a bright future ahead of him in public service. His strong presence, positive disposition and sharp intellect have made Edwin a role model for Wyandanch students and a respected leader among his fellow pages. Edwin represents the future of American leaders and I look forward to hearing of his continued achievements.

COMMENDING THE TSUNAMI RESPONSE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004.

When I toured the tsunami-affected countries in early January, I was struck by how impressive the relief effort by American military and civilian personnel was. Their actions went above and beyond the call of duty and they deserve our deepest gratitude.

BURN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the activities of the American Burn Association (ABA) regarding its accomplishments and dedication to the care of burn victims. The ABA works tirelessly in its efforts involving the first line of defense: the prevention of burn injuries. February 6th to the 12th is Burn Awareness Week so it is a fitting time to acknowledge the work of an organization devoted to this challenging field of medicine. The American Burn Association has more than 3,500 members in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Members include physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, researchers, social workers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and the underpinning of burn research, hospitals with burn centers. The multidisciplinary membership enhances its ability to work toward common goals with other organizations on educational/prevention programs.

Each year, the ABA and other burn treatment entities work on a different burn prevention theme. The theme of Burn Awareness Week this year is the prevention of electrical burn injuries. The number of electrical injuries cared for in hospitals in the US is estimated at as many as 50,000; the cost of these injuries on the US economy is estimated at over one billion dollars per year. Many injuries and deaths can be prevented through an understanding of the dangers of power lines, electrical appliances, extension cords, and lightning. In the past, the ABA has sponsored Burn Awareness weeks focusing on Home Safety, Senior Burn Safety, Prevention of Gasoline Burns, and Scald Prevention, among others. Well over a million people are injured each year from burn related incidents and accidents.

In addition to its traditional responsibilities, in recent years the ABA has worked hard to improve emergency response systems and to incorporate burn care into disaster preparedness systems in the country in light of new threats to the United States. In addition, countless ABA physicians, nurses, and health care workers are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to treat America's injured soldiers.

The American Burn Association stimulates and supports burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention through a variety of educational programs, fellowships, research, teaching, and publications, including the leading peer-reviewed, scientific journal in the burn field, the *Journal of Burn Care & Rehabilitation*.

ABA membership is in virtually every state in the union and countless congressional districts. When the ABA holds its annual Legislative Leadership Conference in Washington April 5th through the 7th, I hope you will take the time to meet with your ABA constituents so that they may tell you more about their work in your hometown.

RESOLUTION HONORING W.E.B.

DU BOIS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this resolution honoring the great civil rights leader and educator W.E.B. Du Bois, on the anniversary of his birthday. As he once explained "I was born by a golden river and in the shadow of two great hills, five years after the Emancipation Proclamation, which began the freeing of American Negro Slaves". Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on February 23, 1868, Du Bois lived a purposeful life until his death the day before the March on Washington. The site of his Great Barrington home, where Du Bois lived for his entire youth, is now a National Historic Landmark. The majority of his papers are archived and available to the public at the main library of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, also in my district. Western Massachusetts is proud to claim W.E.B. Du Bois as a native son.

"More than any resolution, it is by our actions that we can honor W.E.B. Du Bois' life and legacy. We honor his accomplishments as a civil rights leader, educator, and author when we invest in education and when we stand together against injustice and racism.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SGT.
JESSICA HOUSBY**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to honor and remember the life of SGT Jessica Housby of Milan, Illinois. Last week, Sergeant Housby was leading a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device. Her death is tragic and I offer my thoughts and condolences to her family and friends.

Jessica's mother said that serving her country was what Jessica always wanted to do. As a high school student, she participated in the Explorers Program at the Milan Armory. She won the honor of top cadet of 187 competitors in a training exercise at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin. From that service, Jessica enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard while still a senior in high school. Sergeant Housby was assigned to the 1644th Transportation Company in Rock Falls, Illinois.

Sergeant Housby's unit was deployed to Iraq in October of last year. She believed in the mission of our Army, protecting the U.S. and defending our freedoms through her military service. While she was in Iraq, Sergeant Housby served as a truck driver. When she was hauling cargo to a base operating near the Baghdad Airport, her truck was caught in an explosion that killed her.

Jessica's mother has said that Sergeant Housby was kind and giving to everyone that she met. Her mother explains that Jessica continually supported her by providing comfort 2 years ago when her husband, Jessica's step-father, passed away to giving reassur-

ances when she expressed fear about Jessica's deployment. Jessica last talked to her mother on the Sunday before she died, sending her love before embarking on the mission which led to her death. A week later, Jessica's mother received a birthday card sent from a war zone, a reminder of the love of her attentive daughter.

Throughout her life, Jessica was recognized for her abilities. When she was awarded her top cadet honor in 1999, Lt. Archie Rose of the Illinois National Guard explained it was for her "hard work, enthusiasm, and the responsibility." On Saturday, I will attend the funeral of this dedicated 23-year-old dedicated soldier.

Sergeant Jessica Housby will be missed by her family, friends, and unit. I offer all of them my prayers and thoughts, and I pray for the safety of the remaining members of her unit, still serving in Iraq.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOTE MARINE LABORATORY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mote Marine Laboratory on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

In 2004, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released a ground-breaking report that underscored the need to strengthen public awareness regarding the critical importance of the oceans in supporting life on earth.

Based in my hometown of Sarasota, Florida, Mote Marine Laboratory has vigorously and successfully pursued this goal for 50 years. Through its manifold programs emphasizing research and education, Mote Marine Laboratory has advanced the science of the sea while enthraling children and adults alike with the adventure of discovery.

Cape Haze Marine Laboratory was founded in 1955 by the now-famous shark researcher Dr. Eugenie Clark. William and Alfred Vanderbilt financed the project, issuing Dr. Clark the charge to "teach people about the sea." While the Laboratory initially operated in the humble surroundings of a 12-foot-by-20-foot shed in Placida, Florida, Dr. Clark's able direction enabled it to develop a strong reputation as a shark research center during its first ten years of existence.

As the Laboratory's standing grew, so did its facilities. The Laboratory moved to Siesta Key in 1960, where it benefited from the munificence of William R. Mote and his sister, Elizabeth Mote Rose. Accordingly, the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory became Mote Marine Laboratory in 1967. The Laboratory moved to its current location on City Island, Florida, in 1978, thanks to a public-private partnership with the City of Sarasota that continues to thrive today.

Thanks to the expert leadership of William Mote, former directors Dr. Sylvia Earle, Dr. Charles M. Breder, Jr., Dr. Perry W. Gilbert, Dr. William H. Taft, Dr. Robert F. Dunn; and current President Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, the Laboratory has expanded to encompass eight buildings on a 10.5-acre campus, providing nearly 200,000 square feet of research, education, and conference space. The Laboratory

also performs research in a Sarasota inland aquaculture park and in field stations located on Charlotte Harbor and in the Florida Keys.

Mote Marine Laboratory has become much more than an impressive facility, however. The little lab with a handful of researchers that once focused solely upon sharks has become a powerhouse of near-shore marine research. Through its seven centers, the Laboratory undertakes projects involving all kinds of marine life and ecology—from sharks to red tide to marine mammals and fisheries. Comprising one of the world's few remaining private, independent marine research centers, the Laboratory employs a staff of more than 230, which includes approximately 40 Ph.D. scientists who remain leaders in their respective fields.

A diverse array of biologists, chemists, engineers, and education and information experts—as well as many other specialists—performs research under the aegis of Mote Marine Laboratory in more than 50 countries. Moreover, the Laboratory hosts visiting scientists from across America and around the world. Due to the expanse of its reach and the quality of its contributions to scientific understanding, Mote Marine Laboratory has earned international acclaim.

Despite the evolution of its functions, however, Mote Marine Laboratory has never abandoned William and Alfred Vanderbilt's directive to "teach people about the sea." In fact, education remains at the core of its mission. Children and adults alike learn about our world's fragile marine and estuarine ecosystems through the Laboratory's educational opportunities, which include an annual science lecture series, a speakers' bureau, and a multitude of adult and family programs. The Laboratory teaches nearly 50,000 children per year, many of whom study through the Laboratory's own distance learning program entitled "SeaTrek." This innovative initiative utilizes interactive videoconferencing to reach students in places as far away as Switzerland and Hungary.

Established in 1980, Mote Aquarium provides the keystone of Mote Marine Laboratory's commitment to education. The Aquarium hosts almost 400,000 visitors from the United States and abroad every year and provides educational materials in five languages. As in the Laboratory's other pursuits, the Aquarium's main strength rests in its people. Trained volunteers thrill visitors with tales of science and the sea, while a mobile aquarium ensures that all Floridians can enjoy a similar voyage through these wonders.

For one-half century, Mote Marine Laboratory has explored some of the oceans' most pressing questions, sharing its findings with the world. This time of perpetual change has revealed one constant truth: Much remains to be discovered.

A TRIBUTE TO PFIZER, INC. FOR
THEIR HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT
FOR THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great humanitarian support that

Pfizer, Inc. has offered to the victims of the Tsunami disaster. The devastation experienced in Thailand called for the nation's compassion and swift attention. Just three days after the incident, Pfizer was one of the first corporations to deliver both funds and medicines quickly and efficiently to those who experienced this tragedy first hand. Pfizer donated \$11 million to relief organizations, sent more than \$45 million in health care products and contributed an additional \$1.5 million in individual employee and company-matching donations.

Realizing the critical need to address the potential long-term psychological impact this disaster will have on people and communities across Asia, Pfizer recently announced that it will partner with Thailand health organizations to help survivors cope with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pfizer has promised to provide financial resources and expertise to train local health professionals, nurses, social workers, psychologists, teachers and other community leaders. Further, in order to address the needs of those displaced due to the devastation of businesses in affected areas, Pfizer will support the Thai Labor Department in their programs to identify and train a much needed workforce.

Mr. Speaker. I would like to applaud Pfizer on their Tsunami relief efforts. When the call for assistance was heard around the world, Pfizer answered. Their philanthropic efforts set a standard for other companies around the world to follow. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending them for the commitment and remarkable generosity they have shown to those who have suffered from one of the world's worst natural disasters.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME
MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage and tribute to Rafik Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon who was brutally assassinated and just recently laid to rest. Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 91 recognizing and celebrating his life of dedicated public service. His public as well as private contributions to his country were enormous. I commend all the members of Congress who worked quickly to develop this resolution, particularly members such as Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. ISSA. I am sure the people of the United States and the people of Lebanon will miss Mr. Hariri greatly. Yet again, the Middle East has incurred a tragic loss of a world class leader who stood for peace and a better way of life for all the people of Lebanon. As we ask questions about his death and pursue the perpetrators of this act of terror, let us forever be inspired by how he led his life and made this world a better place.

FOAM FIRE SAFETY ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, soon I will be joined by my colleague from Rhode Island in reintroducing the "Foam Fire Safety Act" to reduce the injuries, deaths, and property damage that result from fires fueled by products containing polyurethane foam. This sensible legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to implement a rule within one year that ensures that mattresses, bedding, furniture, and other products containing polyurethane foam meet a new open flame standard. The new level of protection will decrease the destructiveness of fires in homes and buildings around the country and prevent unnecessary tragedies.

Polyurethane foam is found in mattresses, upholstered furniture, carpet padding, soundproofing insulation, and many other products found where we live and work. Polyurethane foam is also one of the most flammable consumer products, and firefighters refer to it as "solid gasoline." Between 1980 and 1998, mattress, bedding, and upholstered furniture fires killed almost 30,000 people in the United States. During the same period, these fires injured more than 95,000 people.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) first began looking into creating stricter flame retardancy standards for foam in 1993. Twelve years later, the process continues without result, and all Americans are left without common sense standards similar to those already in place in California and Great Britain.

My legislation, which is endorsed by the National Association of State Fire Marshals, requires polyurethane products to meet a new "open flame" test, which is equivalent to having a candle right next to the foam. Currently, mattresses and furniture must only be able to withstand the equivalent of a lit cigarette. While the CPSC has begun a rule making process for an open-flame test for mattresses, we cannot afford to delay any longer.

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

As the 2 year anniversary of the Station fire approaches this weekend, Rhode Islanders are reminded of this horrific event. Unfortunately, we are frequently reminded of our own inaction to prevent future disasters as similar fires continue to occur around the world. On New Year's Eve, ceiling foam ignited in a nightclub in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing

nearly 200 attendees. We must act now before another tragedy strikes.

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

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF
NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Nagorno Karabakh who began their National Freedom Movement seventeen years ago.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for reunification with Armenia. This region had been placed within the borders of Azerbaijan in 1921 under the rule of Stalin, even though 96 percent of the population of Nagorno Karabakh was ethnically Armenian.

The response from Azerbaijan and the former Soviet Union on this request was violent. Military attacks against Nagorno Karabakh followed, resulting in a brutal campaign of aggression largely ignored by the outside world. This did not cause the people of Nagorno Karabakh to falter, for they continued to defend their freedom.

Since declaring independence in 1991, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has grown into an active and prosperous democracy. The first plenary sitting of the 10th session of the NKR National Assembly of the 3rd calling took place on February 9, 2005.

The people of Nagorno Karabakh should be commended for their commitment to democracy and achieving sovereignty in the face of strong opposition from neighboring nations. The United States is honored to share such fundamental values with Nagorno Karabakh as democracy, liberty, and a profound respect for human rights.

The people of the United States stand by our friends in Nagorno Karabakh in hoping for a peaceful resolution to their ongoing conflict with the Republic of Azerbaijan. Just as the people of Nagorno Karabakh saw the necessity of a peaceful secession from Azerbaijan seventeen years ago, so too must a peaceful resolution be achieved with this current conflict.

For a people who have suffered so much in pursuit of self-determination, the citizens of Nagorno Karabakh must not abandon hope for a greater future. Through their faultless commitment to democratic values and preservation of human rights, Nagorno Karabakh has made a laudable effort to achieve peace and will soon inspire its Azerbaijani neighbors to return to the peace process.

Like so many who have undergone the pains of oppression, the people of Nagorno Karabakh must rest assured knowing that democracy breeds peace. The United States will continue to promote the cause of our democratic friends in Nagorno Karabakh, not yielding until the goals set forth on February 20, 1988, have been realized in full.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WITNESS
SECURITY AND PROTECTION ACT
OF 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the countless communities across this Nation that live under a tyranny of fear due to witness intimidation.

For too long some of our bravest citizens who courageously sought to testify in criminal proceedings have been subject to terror at the hands of criminals right here on American soil.

Drug dealers and other criminals have employed a variety of brutal tactics to silence witnesses and intimidate their families, including vandalism, threats, beatings, stabbings, shootings, and even murder.

Witness intimidation is a menacing cancer in our society that, if left untreated, will spread and intensify—undermining the very foundation of our criminal justice system. This cancer is eroding public trust in the government's ability to protect witnesses and demoralizing needed community cooperation to enforce the law.

Our criminal justice system relies on witnesses to provide essential evidence to law enforcement in the administration of justice. We cannot allow street thugs to persecute citizens determined to rescue their communities in the grips of violence and illegal drugs.

In Baltimore City reporting crimes, or testifying in court cases involving drugs or violence, can be extremely dangerous and potentially even deadly. According to Baltimore City's State Attorney Patricia Jessamy, prosecutors throughout Baltimore encounter witnesses or victims on a daily basis who are too terrified to testify.

Specifically, her office estimates "at least 25 percent of non-fatal shooting cases are dismissed due to witness [intimidation] issues and most murder cases are affected on some level." They also report "5 cases where a witness was shot or murdered since September last year."

When cases crumble because of witness intimidation, potentially guilty defendants are free once again to pollute our communities with drugs and victimize the innocent.

Mr. Speaker perhaps nowhere is there an example more clear in illustrating the realities of witness intimidation than in the tragedy that claimed the lives of the Dawson family from my district in East Baltimore City.

In response to Mrs. Dawson's heroic efforts to report intense drug distribution activity in her neighborhood, the Dawson family home was firebombed on October 16, 2002. This insidious act not only took the lives of Mr. Dawson and Mrs. Dawson, but also those of their 5 young children.

Unfortunately, this was not the only serious incident of witness intimidation to surface in Baltimore City.

Baltimore Police Detective Thomas Newman was murdered two years ago due to his testimony in a trial concerning a shooting.

On December 2, 2004, a DVD produced by criminals entitled "Stop Snitching" surfaced in Baltimore. It graphically illustrates the violent drug culture and the code of silence on the streets that can paralyze entire communities

seeking to abide by the law. "Stop Snitching" goes so far as to depict grotesque images of three bullet-ridden, bloody corpses accompanied by the phrase "snitch prevention."

On January 15th 2005, in the North Baltimore community of Harwood, Edna McAber had her home firebombed in apparent retaliation for her work to purge her community of criminal activity.

Regrettably, these aforementioned examples are representative of a growing problem of bold intimidation that send a clear message to the Nation that cannot be overstated—those who would cooperate with police in the pursuit of justice face serious retaliation and possibly execution.

Witness protection programs provide an invaluable resource to law enforcement to combat crime and address witness intimidation. The Witness Security Program (WSP) established in 1970 and administered by the Office of Enforcement Operations at the Department of Justice has successfully carried out its charge. Civilian witnesses testifying in federal cases that deal with organized crime or 3 other serious offenses have been provided with long-term protection and relocation.

The United States Marshals Service (USMS) has done an outstanding job in protecting and relocating witnesses and their families who have been placed in their custody. They can provide them with safety, new identities, housing, employment, medical treatment, and funds to cover the most essential of needs.

While non-federal witnesses can participate in the WSP under certain conditions, the State is asked to reimburse the federal government for the cost of providing such protection.

With record State deficits, local prosecutors are often placed in a challenging position of having to choose between directing their dollars to necessary prosecutorial initiatives such as investigating the illegal distribution of drugs or directing their limited resources into costly, but necessary witnesses protection programs—or, unfortunately, providing no protection at all.

No one wins when our criminal justice system is forced to choose between these two worthwhile ends.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Witness Security and Protection Act of 2005. I am proud to have the esteemed senior Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, reintroduce a companion measure to this bill in the Senate.

This legislation would establish within the USMS a Short-Term State Witness Protection Program tailored to meet the needs of witnesses testifying in State and local criminal trials involving homicide, a serious felony or a serious drug offense.

This measure authorizes \$90 million in competitive grants per year for the next three years so that State and local district attorneys and the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, can provide short-term witness protection to their witnesses. Specifically, prosecutors can use these funds to provide witness protection or pay the cost of protecting their witnesses in the Short-Term Witness Protection Program within the USMS.

We give priority in awarding grants to States with high homicide rates. Given our current fiscal position, it is important to ensure that our dollars are targeted to impact those most in need.

While we can never bring back the Dawson family and all those who carried a heavy burden of fear due to witness intimidation, we can honor their sacrifice by taking the necessary steps today to ensure that future tragedies are prevented. I urge my colleagues to join me in taking that critical step by cosponsoring the Witness Security and Protection Act.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND CAREER OF DR. DOROTHY FEREBEE AS THE NATION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, few people have embodied the educational values and progressive nature of Massachusetts better than Dr. Dorothy Ferebee. Born Dorothy Celeste Boulding in Norfolk, Virginia on January 15, 1889, she was a distinguished African-American physician, administrator, and activist. The grandchild of slaves, she forged a path, overcoming countless obstacles, to build a career that would inspire many but could be replicated by none.

Though a native of Virginia, Dr. Ferebee spent the early part of life in Boston. At a young age her family moved north from Norfolk to Boston, Massachusetts where Dorothy and her brother Ruffin grew up in a middle-class neighborhood. The two siblings matured in a nurturing environment surrounded by relatives that served as role models and encouraged scholarship. One of Dorothy's uncles, George Lewis Ruffin, was the first African-American graduate of Harvard Law School and later became Massachusetts's first black judge. Despite the legal influence of her extended family, there were eight attorneys among them; Dorothy's sights were set on medicine. While her friends played with toys, she cared for sick and injured animals, "I would nurse and help the birds that fell out of trees, the dog that lost a fight."

A true daughter of Boston and its surrounding communities, Dr. Ferebee's secondary, undergraduate, and professional education came exclusively from institutions in Massachusetts' Eighth Congressional District. She graduated from Boston English High School with highest honors and went on to attend Simmons College. Upon completion, she applied to medical school and was one of the first black women accepted by Tufts University School of Medicine. Although she excelled, she was among the top five in her class, was elected a member of Zeta Phi, an honorary medical society for women, and was named Class Historian, she was denied access to internships at white hospitals. Never one to give up, she moved to Washington, DC, for an internship at Freedmen's Hospital, the precursor to Howard University and one of the few hospitals that would allow her to continue her education. There, in 1928, she married Claude Thurston Ferebee, a dentist and member of the teaching staff at Howard University.

Dorothy Ferebee had a very long distinguished career in the medical profession. After completing her internship in 1925, she began her own medical practice and became a professor at Howard University School of Medi-

cine. Not one to sit idly, she was also in charge of student health services at Howard University, directed a health care project for Black sharecroppers in Mississippi, and founded organizations that provided health care for Blacks and day care for children of working mothers.

Dr. Ferebee's time in Washington, DC, allowed her to grow professionally, but she never forgot her Massachusetts roots. Toward the end of her career, the connection to her home returned. President John F. Kennedy, former Congressman from the eighth district of Massachusetts, appointed her to the Council for Food for Peace. Though she could have concluded her career when she resigned from Howard University at the age of seventy-nine, she returned to her home state and continued to lecture about preventative medicine at Tufts University. Never digressing from her passion of selflessly helping others, she worked late into her life eventually passing away on September 14, 1980 of congestive heart failure.

Mr. Speaker, though Dr. Dorothy Ferebee's heart stopped working for her at the age of ninety-one, it never failed to work for others. As a physician and activist, Dr. Ferebee fought to break barriers that impeded progress for Blacks and women. The consummate humanitarian, she worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the downtrodden. Her efforts carried her to the far corners of the world and her legacy will continue to be felt globally, but she will always have her home and beginnings in Massachusetts' Eighth Congressional District.

HONORING THE WINTERS HIGH SCHOOL FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in anticipation of National Future Farmers of America Week, which we celebrate next week, to recognize the Winters High School Future Farmers of America Livestock Judging Team as National Champions. Jesse Beckett, Brenden Benson, Matt Hayes, Jacob Thorne, and their coach Kent Benson merit commendation for their high achievement, fine teamwork, and their leadership as members of the Future Farmers of America.

Last May, the team won the California State Champion Livestock Judging title in San Luis Obispo. Team members spent many hours each week studying for the written examination and traveling on weekends to practice evaluating livestock. On October 29, 2004 their team was named the winner of the National Champion Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event at the 77th Annual FFA National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. They competed against 43 other State Championship teams from the United States.

At the national contest, Mr. Hayes was the highest individual overall, Mr. Beckett was 7th, Mr. Thorne was 8th, and Mr. Benson 21st. The team placed first on the written exam, 1st in sheep, and 1st in reasons. Mr. Benson and Mr. Thorne each received a perfect "50" score on market lamb reasons. In June the Winters High School FFA Livestock Judging Team will

travel to the Royal Highland Show World Competition in Scotland.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we commend, Jesse Beckett, Brenden Benson, Matt Hayes, Jacob Thorne and coach Kent Benson for their skill and commitment in this endeavor and recognize their outstanding success in achieving their National Championship goal. Let us convey our hopes and best wishes to them as they prepare to represent our nation at the Royal Highland Show World competition a few months hence.

HONORING DR. MARY BELLE McCORKLE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Mary Belle McCorkle, a fine Tucsonan who has set a remarkable example for us all. This weekend, Mary Belle will receive an award that is much deserved; she will be named the 2004 Woman of the Year by the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (2004).

Over the years, Mary Belle has made a significant commitment to education in our community. Her hard work has provided us all with benefits of immeasurable worth. In her early years with the Tucson Unified School District, Mary Belle served as Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Principal of both Borton Primary Magnet School and Erickson Elementary School and as a classroom and helping teacher. Her next move led her to become the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction in the Sunnyside Unified School District in Tucson, from which she retired in 1993.

Mary Belle then went on to serve on the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board for three terms, from 1993 through 2004. She was President of the Board four times and Clerk of the Board twice. In addition to these numerous important jobs, Mary Belle finds the time to mentor administrative interns and teach classes at the University of Phoenix. She has served as an educational consultant for five Arizona school districts, and currently is an Arizona Department of Education Solutions Team Leader. Indeed, Mary Belle has given her talents toward many causes and she has put forth her full effort into each and every one.

A few of Mary Belle's many accomplishments during her tenure on the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board stand out in my mind. In an effort to improve student achievement, Mary Belle led the charge to create an all-day kindergarten program and also to add counselors for elementary schools as she had done while at Sunnyside. Furthermore, she mediated a severe labor dispute which could have resulted in a work action.

Among other awards and recognitions Mary Belle has received in the past are the Ray Davies Lifetime Achievement Award from the Educational Enrichment Foundation (2004), the Frances Miller Community Action Award by the Southern Arizona Association for Education of Young Children (2003), the LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Presidential Citation (2003), the Friend of the

Pan Asian Community designation by the Pan Asian Community Alliance (2001), the Dynamic Duo Award by Compass Health (2002), the All-Arizona School Board Award by the Arizona School Boards Association, the Outstanding Educator Award by the University of Arizona Alumni Council of the College of Education, and a Woman on the Move Award by the YWCA.

Undeniably, Dr. Mary Belle McCorkle has had an extensive and successful career. Moreover, she has achieved her professional goals while raising a loving family, whom she also has taught to value and commit to education. She is married to Richard McCorkle, a retired Director of Purchasing for TUSD. They have two daughters: one is principal of Dietz Elementary School in TUSD, and the other is a school psychologist at Desert View High School in Sunnyside Unified School District. Four grandchildren and one great grandchild have or will attend TUSD schools.

HONORING MRS. SUE L.
GLIDEWELL

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mrs. Sue L. Glidewell. She embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family, and service to one's community. I would like to recognize this outstanding citizen and public servant and her many accomplishments.

Mrs. Sue Glidewell was born on August 14, 1931 in Marshall County, Alabama. She later moved to Etowah County and graduated from Gadsden High School in 1949. She married the late H. L. Glidewell in 1950 and had four children: Cathy, who passed away in August of 1976, Gina Passmore, Kelly Stephens and H. L. Glidewell, Junior. She has five grandchildren.

As a young woman, she joined the workforce in 1949 when she accepted a position with the Credit Bureau of Gadsden. She first entered public service as an employee of the City of Gadsden Water Department in 1950. This was just the beginning of her many exceptional years in public service. She began her career with Rainbow City in 1967 when she began working as the city clerk. She served in this capacity for thirteen years before being elected Mayor in 1980. In 2004 she stepped down from the office of Mayor after having completed twenty-four years of service to her city.

Mrs. Sue Glidewell is a past President and a past Vice-President of the Alabama League of Municipalities. While Mayor, she served on the League's Executive Committee as well as the Committee on State and Federal Legislation. She was also a member of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee for the National League of Cities. She is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and is a member of the Coosa River Development Task Force and the Etowah County Baptist Association Foundation Executive Committee. Mrs. Glidewell is a member of the Coosa Valley Baptist Church where she sings in the choir and teaches Sunday School.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mrs. Sue L. Glidewell for her many years of accomplishments and her lasting impact on her community and family. I am proud to have worked with Mayor Glidewell for the past several years and am grateful for her leadership. I know the leaders of Rainbow City and Etowah County will build upon the legacy that she leaves behind. She continues to be an inspiring role model for all of us, and I wish her all the best in the coming years.

CHINESE ANTI-SECESSION LAWS

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the Peoples Republic of China is planning to enact an anti-secession law this March. This law will give China jurisdiction over Taiwan and provide Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if China suspects secessionist activities in Taiwan. Predictably, Taiwan has reacted to this proposal with considerable alarm. If Chinese leaders persist, and are successful in enacting this law, Taiwan might very well be forced to enact an anti-annexation law in response.

This battle of laws is most unfortunate in view of the fact that cross-strait relations have been improving recently. On January 15 of this year, China and Taiwan agreed to have direct charter flights during the Chinese New Year. Both sides have agreed to continue to work toward restoring direct trade, transport and postal ties; "three links" of vital importance. The economies of China and Taiwan have grown increasingly interdependent: Taiwanese businesses have invested as much as \$100 billion in China and as many as one million Taiwanese people now live and work on the mainland.

Mr. Speaker, the latest controversy relating to China's proposed anti-secession law has once again highlighted the political division between China and Taiwan. It is apparent to me that China is seeking to force its own style of government on the 23 million people of Taiwan. China has totally ignored Taiwan's contributions to the economic well being of their country. China has continued to ignore the repeated gestures of good will offered by President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan.

By unilaterally attempting to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, China is also challenging America's resolve to stand behind the Taiwan Relations Act, which unequivocally states that it is the policy of the United States "to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan." The Taiwan Relations Act also affirms that one of the objectives of the United States is "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan."

Mr. Speaker, it is my view that China's proposed anti-secession law is provocative and dangerous and poses a grave threat to peace and stability in the region. We must make it known that China's latest attempts to enact any form of an anti-secession law will do irreparable harm to the goodwill that is building between the peoples of Taiwan and China. Fur-

ther, it will almost inevitably lead to escalating tension in the Taiwan Strait. Taiwanese people should not have to allow the authoritarian government in China to mandate the annexation of free Taiwan, and freedom-loving people in the world should not sit idly by as that happens.

HONORING DAN HARRELL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am truly happy to rise before you today to recognize the accomplishments of a gentleman who has selflessly dedicated himself to public service for most of his adult life. On Friday, February 18, friends and family will join civic and community leaders in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, to honor Dan Harrell, as he retires as Coordinator of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners after 17 years.

After graduating from Flint Northwestern High School in 1967, Dan Harrell enrolled in what was then known as Genesee Community College, graduating in 1969. From there, he went on to the University of Michigan-Flint, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and History in 1971. Dan's love of politics, however, began much earlier—in 1960, where an 11 year-old Dan patrolled the streets of Flint, handing out campaign literature for presidential candidate John F. Kennedy.

After stints as a teacher and a salesman, Dan became Assistant Finance Director of the Michigan Democratic Party. Later, in 1982, he joined the staff of newly elected State Senator Joe Conroy and remained for six years, until he left to become Board Coordinator. As Coordinator for the nine-person Board, Dan has served as a bridge and guiding force, assisting the Commission with fulfilling their task to improve the quality of life for all Genesee County residents. In addition, Dan serves as coordinator for the county's FOIA requests, and its Emergency Management department. Dan's peers have described his work and his ability to deal with people from all walks of life as "invaluable."

Dan's love of politics has extended outside of the office, where he has been a key part of many campaigns over the years, including one of his own: in 1989, he successfully ran for a seat on the Flint School Board, serving as Treasurer for three of the six years of his term. He has also been a member of the Whaley Children's Center Public Policy Board and the Urban League Board of Directors. And then there are his greatest accomplishments: his marriage to Evelyn, their two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, once again I am honored to acknowledge the life and career of Dan Harrell. He has made Genesee County a better place to live, and I am proud to call him my colleague, my constituent, and my friend. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating him for his unwavering commitment to justice, and wishing him well in his retirement as well as all his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF DR. ALLEN BROMLEY, PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND FORMER PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISOR

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of physicist Allan Bromley to this nation's science and technology enterprise.

Dr. Allan Bromley, a Yale University professor, nuclear physicist and architect of national science policy during the administration of President George H. W. Bush, passed away on Thursday, February 10, 2005, at the age of 79.

A native of Westmeath, Ontario, Canada, Dr. Bromley earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Queen's University and a doctorate from the University of Rochester in 1952. He subsequently received 32 honorary doctorates from universities on four continents.

Bromley was the first scientist to artificially form nuclear molecules through high-speed collisions using a five million-volt particle accelerator that he pioneered in 1959. He founded the A. W. Wright Nuclear Structure Laboratory at Yale and served as its director from 1963 to 1989. During the same period, his outstanding teaching contributed to his laboratory graduating more Ph.D.s in experimental physics than any other institution in the world. In 1988, he received the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific award, for his remarkable contributions to the advancement of science and the characterization of atomic nuclei.

Dr. Bromley's tremendous accomplishments were not limited to the confines of the academic laboratory. As the first person to hold the Cabinet level rank of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, Dr. Bromley increased both the staff and budget of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy by factors of more than five between 1989 and 1993. He supported increasing scientific research in the federal portfolio, considering it a necessity to remain competitive with other nations' investments. He championed the expansion of the "data superhighway," the precursor of the internet, and is credited with convincing the president to attend a summit on global warming. Among his many other accomplishments, Dr. Bromley has served as the president of the American Physical Society, a member of the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics, and as a member of the National Science Board.

Curiously, Dr. Bromley became a U.S. citizen through rather unusual circumstances. In 1970, after visiting a high-security testing site, someone realized that Bromley wasn't a U.S. citizen. With the help of a judge, this oversight was quickly remedied.

At the time of his death, Dr. Bromley was still actively teaching physics at Yale as the Sterling Professor of Sciences.

Dr. Bromley served his country in a variety of ways, from the Oval Office to the classroom. He will be remembered as one of the most influential science advisers ever, as well as one of the most beloved teachers in higher education. We fondly remember his leadership

and invaluable contributions, and we extend our condolences to his family.

HONORING THE WORDS OF JOHN JACKSON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the words of John Jackson, a steelworker from Warren, Ohio. I am proud to claim him as my constituent.

I AM AN AMERICAN STEEL MILL

I was born over 100 years ago.

I am a true American.

I survived the depression.

I have lived through wars.

I sweated.

I poured ton after ton out of you.

When called upon I answered.

At wartime I served my country.

I served it true.

I worked 24 hours a day 7 days a week for you.

Never stopping, never slowing down.

Never asking for anything in return.

I have supplied you with the materials to build

Planes, trains, ships, cars, and whatever you asked of me.

I have helped make you the super power that you are.

I have made you feel proud, safe, secure, and superior to other nations.

I have given people their way of life.

I have taken away life from people.

Do You Know Who I Am?

I Am an American Steel Mill

I have helped you when called upon,

I have supported you though good times

And bad times.

Now I am asking you this great

country of ours

Think what life would be like if I die

Think how safe, proud, secure you would feel if I die.

The cries for help are all across the country.

The same country I helped build.

The same country I helped become strong.

Please don't let me die.

Serve me as I have served you.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this month we celebrate Black History Month and the many accomplishments and contributions of African Americans in our community. I rise today to honor the lives and sacrifices of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Prior to 1940, African Americans were denied military leadership roles and skilled training in the U.S. Military because the military institution believed they lacked the qualifications and experience for combat duty. In fact, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military until World War II when the Army Air Corps program initiated a program known "Tuskegee Experiment."

In July 1941, thirteen young Americans began military flight training at the Tuskegee

Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. Five of those thirteen young men completed training and received their Army Air Corps silver pilot wings, becoming our Nation's first African American military fighter pilots. They would later be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Between 1941 and 1946, 992 pilots graduated from Tuskegee Army Air Field, with 450 of those serving during World War II in either the famed 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group. Both units, heralded for their bravery and tenacity, received numerous Presidential Unit Citations for exemplary tactical air support and aerial combat. The Tuskegee Airmen also paid a high price, losing 150 pilots while in training or on combat flights.

It has been said that the Tuskegee Airmen fought two wars—one against the enemy overseas and the other against racism and bigotry at home and abroad. Yet, in the face of these challenges, they accepted their country's call to service and fought heroically in great battles for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the national organization of Tuskegee Airmen, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., estimates there are fewer than 300 of the original Tuskegee Airmen still alive today. Three of these courageous individuals reside in my own district. Mr. O. Oliver Goodall of Altadena, California; Mr. Andrew Jack Simon of South Pasadena, California; and Mr. LeRoy Criss of Pasadena, California all received their training as Army Air Force fighter pilots and joined the ranks of the Tuskegee Airmen in 1942 and 1943. They served our country with honor and distinction, and I am grateful for their dedication and service. Today, I honor the contributions of Mr. Goodall, Mr. Simon, and Mr. Criss and all of the other Tuskegee Airmen who served valiantly in the U.S. Military.

I am pleased to rise in support of H. Con. Res. 26 which recognizes these groundbreaking individuals for their bravery and dedication not only to fight for their country, but also to fight for equality back home.

The "Tuskegee Experiment," as it was known at the time, was not an experiment at all, but a radical disproving of racial stereotypes and a precursor to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and the 1960s. The Tuskegee Airmen shattered many of the entrenched racial biases in American culture, and in many respects, these pioneers were among the first to challenge segregationist policies. The Tuskegee Airmen charted the course for the many other brave individuals who follow them in the continuing quest for racial equality in the United States, and they deserve both our respect and our admiration.

REPEAL 22ND AMENDMENT TO U.S. CONSTITUTION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a joint resolution to repeal outright the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution. The 22nd Amendment requires that no person who has served two terms or has served two years of another President's term be permitted to serve another term of office.

The time has come to repeal the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, and not because of partisan politics. While I am not a

supporter of the current President, I feel there are good public policy reasons for a repeal of this amendment. Under the Constitution as altered by the 22nd Amendment, this must be President George W. Bush's last term even if the American people should want him to continue in office. This is an undemocratic result.

Under the resolution I offer today, President Bush would not be eligible to run for a third term. However, the American people would have restored to themselves and future generations an essential democratic privilege to elect who they choose in the future.

A limitation on the terms that a President could serve was not fully discussed by the Founding Fathers. However, Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist Paper 72, recognized that one important benefit of not having term limits on the President would be:

to enable the people, when they see reason to approve of his conduct, to continue him in the station in order to prolong the utility of his talents and virtues, and to secure to the government the advantage of permanency in a wise system of administration.

After President George Washington retired after serving two terms, a custom emerged that was not broken until President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to four terms. The people chose President Roosevelt because they desired trusted and effective leadership.

We do not have to rely on rigid constitutional standards to hold our Presidents accountable. Sufficient power resides in the Congress and the Judiciary to protect our country from tyranny. As the noted attorney and counsel to Presidents, Clark Clifford, said:

I believe we denigrate ourselves as an enlightened people, and our political process as a whole, in imposing on ourselves still further disability to retain tested and trusted leadership. The Congress and the Judiciary are now and will remain free to utilize their own countervailing constitutional power to forestall any executive overreaching.

Furthermore, a "lame duck" President serving in his second term is less effective dealing with the Congress and the bureaucracy than a President should be. I do not believe that the people want a popularly chosen President who will be weakened in a second term. The removal of the President from politics as prescribed by the 22nd Amendment has the effect of removing the President from the accountability to political forces that come to bear during regular elections every four years.

The 22nd Amendment reflects a fundamental distrust of the judgment of the American people. However, trust of the good sense of the people is one of the cornerstones of democracy.

In 1820, Thomas Jefferson wrote: "I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion."

I believe the repeal of the 22nd Amendment will restore power to the people themselves and make our Constitution more democratic. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO DESIGNATE THE FEDERAL
COURTHOUSE IN SANTA FE, NM
AFTER JUDGE SANTIAGO
CAMPOS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize an outstanding jurist, an honorable man, and a leading Hispanic in the field of law by introducing legislation to name the Federal Courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after Judge Santiago Campos. I am pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation by my colleagues Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GONZALES, and Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ.

Judge Santiago Campos was the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico, serving from 1978 until his death in 2001, including as chief judge from 1987 through 1989. Judge Campos' career of public service only culminated with his service as a United States District Court Judge, as he also served in the United States Navy as a Seaman First Class from 1944 to 1946, as the Assistant and First Assistant Attorney General of New Mexico from 1954 to 1957, and as a District Court Judge from 1971 to 1978 in the First Judicial District in the State of New Mexico. Judge Campos served with distinction on the bench and displayed both firmness and compassion with those who entered his courtroom. He was a life long resident of New Mexico and graduated first in his law school class at the University of New Mexico.

Judge Campos was very active in his courtroom, often exercising his right to question witnesses in the middle of cross-examinations. Many agree that he became more involved in a case than other judges, but still let a lawyer try his own case. One of his most memorable cases ordered the Gannett Co. to return The New Mexican, Santa Fe's daily newspaper, to its former owner, Robert McKinney due to a breach of contract.

During his career, Campos was an honorary member of the Order of the Coif. He also received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the State Bar of New Mexico in 1993, and in the same year the University of New Mexico honored him with a Distinguished Achievement Award.

Sadly, Judge Campos passed away on January 20th, 2001. Following his passing, the New Mexico State Legislature passed a joint memorial requesting Congress to name the Federal Courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after Judge Campos who had his chambers in the courthouse for over 22 years. In addition, the judges of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals who reside in New Mexico and the district judges of the District of New Mexico unanimously requested and support Congressional action to name the Federal Courthouse after Judge Campos. I am pleased to take up this effort.

During the 107th Congress I introduced this legislation and was able to work to get it passed by the House. Unfortunately the Senate did not act on this legislation. During the 108th Congress we were unable to move this bill, but I am hopeful that this year will be the

year to get this legislation signed into law to honor this great man with a small token of appreciation for the remarkable life that he lived.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME
MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and our Nation in honoring the life and legacy of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and to express our condolences to his family and the people of Lebanon.

A true patriot and dedicated public servant, Prime Minister Hariri devoted his life to his country and his people, working to rebuild Lebanon after its civil war and contributing millions to programs to improve the lives of the Lebanese people.

He was well-respected by the international community for his efforts to build a free and independent Lebanon as evidenced by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 affirming the right of the people of Lebanon to choose their leaders free from intimidation, terror and foreign occupation. Sadly he will not see his hope realized.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the victims of the February 14th attack.

RECOGNIZING THOMASVILLE
BULLDOGS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, following the New England Patriots' Super Bowl win, their third in the last four years, all of the talk was about the birth of a National Football League dynasty in the making. Those of us who reside in the Sixth District of North Carolina know all about football dynasties, and we are proud to report that the dynasty known as the Thomasville Bulldogs Football Team is back and champions once more. This year, Thomasville High School captured its fifth state championship in the school's history and its first since 1995.

The latest championship for Thomasville may have been secured in the most thrilling manner in the school's glorious history. On December 11, 2004, Thomasville defeated Wallace-Rose Hill 15-14 to capture the Class 1-A State football championship. That score doesn't begin to hint at the drama that ensued for the Bulldogs. Trailing 14-9, Thomasville was facing a fourth-and-1 situation, but the Bulldogs completed a pass for only eight yards, meaning that the ball went back to Wallace-Rose Hill with only 1:21 left to play. On the next play, however, divine intervention may have occurred. Defensive back Tavarious Henderson ran down Wallace-Rose Hill running back Leverne Coston, stripped him of the ball, recovered the fumble, and ran 10 yards

for the game-winning touchdown. The Bulldogs missed the two-point conversion, but it was unneeded as Thomasville hung on for the dramatic 15–14 victory.

The school's last-minute hero, Tavarius Henderson, told the High Point Enterprise that he knew he had to do something dramatic to win the game. "I knew we had him (the running back) real good," the Bulldog told the newspaper, "so I went for the ball. It came loose and the ball was right there, laying beautifully. I picked it up and went into the end zone." And with that play, Tavarius went right into the history books among the storied names in Thomasville football history. For his efforts, Henderson was named as the championship game's Most Valuable Player.

This may have been the most dramatic win, but Thomasville has a proud and rich football history and its color is brown—namely as in Coach Brown. In 2004, Coach Benjie Brown captured his first State title following in the footsteps of his famous father Coach Allen Brown who led the Bulldogs to State championships in 1988, 1991 and 1995. (Thomasville also won the 1964 State title in the old Western North Carolina High School Activities Association.) This 2004 championship was the school's first in the new Class 1–A division. The three titles secured by Coach Allen Brown were in Class 2–A. Allen Brown was the defensive coordinator for his son Benjie's first title as head coach. Benjie told the Greensboro News & Record that his father was a key to the victory. "I couldn't have done it without him tonight," Coach Benjie Brown told the newspaper, "and I'd like to think I had a hand in some of his."

Both Coach Browns would tell you that it requires a whole lot of effort from a whole lot of people to win a State championship. Those of us who reside in the Sixth District congratulate each and every member of the Bulldogs squad. First the players: Brent LeMay, Jeremy McKiver, Cory Tobin, Willie Green, Chaz Leak, Quinton Jackson, Justin Little, Laviery Baxter, Bradley Watkins, Richard Norton, J.J. Lawson, Stephon Donnell, Scott Hines, Quan Warley, Jerrod Kersey, E.J. Abrams-Ward, Karim Eltokhy, Tavarius Henderson, Chris Webber, E.J. McCormick, Zeke Clark, Ricky Hunsucker, Bud Ray, Terrance Pearson, Jaz Tate, Brandon Johnson, Aundra Belle, Jamall Steele, Lorenzo Cannon, Kendarius Cox, Derek Medlin, Jason Hicks, Antonio Royal, Ratazio Baxter, Ari Foust, Brandon Taylor, Senneca Sammuels, Tommy Green, Cornelius Davis, Ji Soo Noh, Trey Ray, Joe Brewer, Jason Nelson, Dustin Gloor, Cody Smith, and Michael Byrd.

The players would be the first to tell you that they could not have done it without strong backing. We congratulate Head Coach Benjie Brown and his outstanding assistants Allen Brown, Roger Bryant, Sam Captain, Danny Medlin, Matt Pugh, Scott Pugh, Brandon Staton, and Nick Sweitzer. They were joined by community coaches Vince Brown, Ed Courtney, Kemp Harvey, and Don Osborne. Also offering valuable contributions were trainers Kenny Coker and Charles Crowell; statistician Barry Tucker; film crew members Travis Leanord, Wade Loflin, Casey Medlin, and Adam Oakley; Middle School Head Coach Eric Rader and his liaison Stan Baranowski; team doctors David Williams and Rob Williams; gym

maintenance supervisor Bill Moore; and team managers Troy Butler, Keyshawn Green, Byron Lattimore, Marquis Love, Luke Williams, and Jonathan Wright.

The championship game was thrilling and the entire season validated Thomasville High School as one of North Carolina's true football dynasties. We congratulate Principal Dirk Gurley, Athletic Director Woody Huneycutt, the students, families, faculty, staff, and fans of the Thomasville Bulldogs on winning North Carolina's 1–A football championship.

WOMEN'S HEALTH OFFICE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague Representative DEBORAH PRYCE, I have introduced a bill that makes women's health a priority. On September 17, 2002, the House passed the Women's Health Office Act, legislation that would provide statutory authority to five federal women's health offices. Unfortunately, the other body did not consider this legislation before the end of the 107th Congress so it was never signed into law.

Currently, only two women's health offices are federally authorized and protected by law: the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health, and the Office for Women's Services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). These offices provide critical health research services to the women of this country.

Statutory authorization is not provided for the federal offices and positions residing in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). I believe it is important to give statutory authority to these offices.

Enactment of the Women's Health Office Act will ensure that the needs and gaps in research, policy, programs, and education and training in women's health will continue to receive the attention they require in the 21st century.

IN MEMORY OF R. ARNOLD WAKELIN, JR.

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the town of Wellesley, Massachusetts, recently suffered a great loss with the death of R. Arnold Wakelin, Jr., who was the town's Executive Director of General Government, and who had served the residents of the town with dedication, distinction and creativity through 47 years.

Local government isn't glamorous. It is simply necessary. It is to our local governments that we entrust some of the most important responsibilities that affect our lives. Policing, fire fighting, public sanitation, snow removal, street maintenance, recreation, and of course education are carried out along with a number of other activities essential to the quality of our lives, especially in urban areas, at the local government level. R. Arnold Wakelin was a gifted individual who, fortunately for the people of the town of Wellesley, chose to employ his considerable talents on behalf of the fellow citizens of the town he loved and served so well.

He began his work for the town in 1957 after leaving the Air Force where he served for 3 years, and his ability and dedication quickly led to a series of promotions which culminated in his being the Chief Executive of the town. In addition, he served on the town's retirement board and he was a leader in the Wellesley Kiwanis Club, additional outlets for his desire to serve his fellow citizens. Mr. Speaker, I join with the residents of the town in mourning his passing while celebrating and expressing thanks for his extraordinary service. The example he set of effective concern for the well being of others is an inspiring one and I ask that the recognition by the town of Wellesley of the wonderful career of Arnold Wakelin be noted here.

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF R. ARNOLD WAKELIN, JR.

Whereas, on November 8th 2004, the Town of Wellesley was saddened by the death of our esteemed Executive Director of General Government, R. Arnold Wakelin, Jr. Arnold made numerous and impressive contributions to the Town of Wellesley and its residents throughout his forty-seven years of service. With his passing, Wellesley lost a dedicated leader and faithful friend;

Whereas, in addition to Executive Director, Arnold served as a valued member of the Town's Retirement Board. He was also an active member of the Wellesley Kiwanis Club for over forty years, having served as President and most recently Treasurer. Arnold served our community with a deep sense of commitment and devotion. He earned the regard and heartfelt respect of all who were privileged to know him;

Whereas, Arnold gave earnestly of his time to our community and we think of the many citizens who have benefited from his leadership and participation in the Town of Wellesley. His former associates and the citizens of the Town regard his passing as a great loss;

Whereas, the thanks of this meeting and the community are due Arnold Wakelin for the able manner in which he performed his various appointed and volunteer duties. We sincerely regret his passing;

Whereas, on behalf of the Citizens of Wellesley, this Resolution is being presented as an opportunity to express the esteem in which we hold him as a faithful and devoted citizen: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That this town meeting, on behalf of the residents and municipal employees of the Town of Wellesley, expresses its deep regret at the passing of R. Arnold Wakelin, Jr. and publicly acknowledges its appreciation for his dedicated service and significant contributions to the citizens of our Town, and further, that the Town Clerk be instructed to record this Resolution in the minutes of this Meeting, and to transmit copies to Mr. Wakelin's family.

REGARDING THE SERVICE OF THE
MONTFORD POINT MARINES**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Representative LANE EVANS as an original cosponsor, with the Congressional Black Caucus, of this Resolution honoring the Montford Point Marines.

In 1942, President Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African Americans an opportunity to be recruited into the Marine Corps. These African Americans, from all states, were not sent to the traditional boot camps of Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California. Instead, African-American Marines were segregated—experiencing basic training at Montford Point—a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Approximately 20,000 African-American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

The initial intent was to discharge these African-American Marines after the war, returning them to civilian life. Attitudes changed as the war progressed. Once given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny the fact that African-American Marines were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

In July of 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order #9981 negating segregation. In September 1949, Montford Marine Camp was deactivated—ending seven years of segregation.

I am joining Congressman EVANS in offering this resolution to recognize their service and sacrifice and to acknowledge today's United States Marine Corps as an excellent opportunity for advancement of persons of all races due to the service and example of the original Montford Point Marines.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on February 16, 2005 due to the funeral of a close friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 35.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds

for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to say that I will be voting against H.R. 418. We have made significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and I support additional reforms that make real progress in addressing problems plaguing our immigration system. However, H.R. 418 does not go far enough in improving this immigration system in ways that will enhance our national security.

Instead of comprehensively reforming our immigration system, this proposal seeks to overturn key provisions adopted in the Intelligence Reform bill last year requiring strict new standards for driver's licenses. The Department of Homeland Security is already collaborating with states to devise sensible standards that work. This bill rolls back this approach in favor of Congressionally-mandated rules which did not have the benefit of committee hearings.

Additionally, this bill creates additional, next-to-impossible hurdles for legitimate asylum seekers. Many of these asylum-seekers have been the victims of terrorism themselves and have fled to this country seeking freedom and democracy. About a month ago, I learned the heart-breaking story an Iraqi informant who saved North Dakota lives and lost his own in advancing the cause of freedom and democracy in Iraq. Though his family escaped with their lives, the continued risk to these friends of America now prompts our urgent attention. I fear that passage of this legislation today would mean that we would not be able to allow this family, who sacrificed so much, to enter the United States and remain here while their lives are threatened.

Mr. Chairman, I will vote against H.R. 418, and I encourage my colleagues to seek real reform that addresses the problems in our broken immigration system.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act. This bill adds unnecessary burdens to the asylum process and unfunded mandates on state governments.

My home state of Minnesota has an ever-increasing population of new Americans. As is true across the country, thousands of my constituents fled religious discrimination, abuse, torture and religious persecution abroad. The United States is a beacon of hope for those around the world seeking safety, freedom and equality. It is vital that we remain that way.

The asylum provisions in H.R. 418 impose an undue burden on those immigrants fleeing persecution, torture, and other human rights abuses around the world. The bill would require the asylum seeker to show documentation of their torture. This would reverse years of precedent that allow a credible testimony to be proof of their case. It is outrageous to think that the human rights abusers abroad will provide proof of their crime to ensure an asylum-seeker can prove their case to immigration officials in the United States.

This bill will also place an unnecessary, unfunded mandate on states, most of whom are already facing budget challenges due to cuts in federal funding. Driver's license laws are the responsibility of state governments. Minnesota is on the forefront of developing secure identification for its citizens. Not more than 2 months ago, my state unveiled a new driver's license that is among the most secure licenses in the country. However, even with Minnesota's innovation, this bill would require a monumental effort on the part of the state to comply with the law, which is an unfunded mandate that ties the hands of state government.

I will continue to uphold my oath of office to preserve and protect our Constitution and the safety of our nation. No one wants terrorists to enter the United States, but this bill is not the answer to that problem. We must streamline and strengthen our immigration process, but we cannot do so at the expense of the abused, the tortured, and the persecuted.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF LOU AND
GEORGIA POULOS**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of two dear friends, Lou and Georgia Poulos of Phoenix, Arizona. On Jan. 30, 2005, the couple was joined by 150 friends and family members to toast their half-century milestone of matrimony.

Lou Poulos first met Georgia Hotis in the late 1940's during a church outing for teenagers at the Gold Spot bowling alley in Phoenix. During the following years, their relationship blossomed and their courtship began when the couple was in their twenties. Although it was initially Georgia's beauty and Lou's sense of humor that sparked the mutual attraction, the couple's shared values as first generation Greek-Americans and members of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, paved the way for their lasting connection.

Seven years later, the sweethearts were married in the Greek Orthodox Church on January 30, 1955. The couple held their wedding reception at the Westward Ho Hotel, an historic hotel in Phoenix located across the street from the bowling alley where they first met. In 1960, the newlyweds built a home in Phoenix where they reared their three children, Deanne, Jim, and Alex, and where they still reside today, nearly forty-five years later. The Poulos family has now proudly expanded to include Jim's wife, Tracy, Alex's wife, Shelli, and Alex and Shelli's five-year-old triplets, Sela, Ari and Alex.

As Lou continued to build his liquor store chain, Georgia managed the household, juggling her children's dance classes, piano lessons, Little League baseball, and Pop Warner football. As their son Jim fondly recalled, Lou and Georgia made many sacrifices to ensure the best education and opportunities for their children.

Despite their busy family lives, Lou and Georgia have remained active in the community throughout their years together. For 47 years, Lou served as the secretary/treasurer for the Arizona License and Beverage Association, and since his retirement, he continues to serve as an officer for the state licensed beverage lobbying organization. Georgia worked as a director for two nonprofit organizations. Over the years, the couple has also served on their parish council, the Men's Club, and Women's Guild at Brophy College Preparatory school, as well as participating in and donating to many charitable fundraisers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and celebrating 50 years of marriage between Lou and Georgia Poulos, a union built on a devotion to each other and unconditional love for family. I have had the privilege of knowing this loving couple for decades, and have witnessed the strong sense of family values, self-sacrifice, and commitment to community that defined their lives together. As a longtime friend, it is with great joy that I extend my congratulations to Lou and Georgia Poulos and their beloved family, and I wish them many more years of wedded happiness.

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong concern over China's proposed anti-secession law that it plans to include in its March 2005 agenda of the National People's Congress.

This anti-secession law is highly provocative, and needlessly moves cross-strait relations away from dialogue and possibly towards open confrontation. I am particularly concerned about the law's assumption that China and Taiwan are now unified and how the law sets up a legal framework for retaliation if Taiwan declares independence. Under this proposed law, China could claim the legal right to push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is the worst possible scenario.

The 23 million people of Taiwan are understandably very upset over this proposed law. As we all know, the people of Taiwan live in a full-fledged democracy and enjoy the highest standards of freedom and human rights. We remember a similar reaction and back-lash by the citizens of Hong Kong when they learned about the enactment of the Article 23 anti-secession laws. While claiming the theory of "one country, two systems," it appears that Beijing's implementation of its theory may result in the blocking of democratic reforms and the undermining of autonomous self-governance.

Certainly any country has the right to enact their own domestic laws, but I do not feel that any country should use their domestic laws as justification to suppress or intimidate democ-

racy abroad. While the President spoke very eloquently of promoting democracy and liberty abroad in his Inaugural Address, we must remember that our country still has a solemn duty to defend democracy and liberty.

I hope the Chinese leaders will be wise to not adopt this anti-secession law in March. I also urge the international community to join us to voice their disapproval of this provocative law. Inaction by the world will likely send a wrong signal to Beijing.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GRANTS PASS ROTARY AND THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary commitment to service, community, and humanitarianism displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, embarked on an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generosity a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanitarianism, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, D.C. keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our Nation's capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in over 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs.

The Grants Pass Rotary, located in Oregon's beautiful Rogue Valley, is one such club. Founded in 1924, Grants Pass Rotary has celebrated over 80 years of dedication and service to the local community as well as the world abroad. Under the recent leadership of Georgette Brown, and her predecessors before her, the club has done a great deal for the area.

Throughout the years, Grants Pass Rotarians have conducted projects with their dedication, time, energy, and resources. These projects have covered a variety of areas: recognition of students in middle and elementary school excelling in their academic endeavors; the initial funding and continued support of The Riverside West All Sports Park, a fabulous facility for all Grants Pass citizens and visitors to enjoy; the development of Morrison

Centennial Park; the Grants Pass Rotary Invitational Track Meet held at Grants Pass High School, an event for students throughout the state and northern California; and events for foreign exchange students visiting America.

Internationally, the commitment of Rotarians is as strong. With humanitarian and educational programs for communities in all parts of the globe, Rotary Clubs have made a difference in everything from disaster relief to the advancement of democracy. A major focus of Rotary International is the global eradication of polio, a goal that the organization hopes to meet this year. In 1985 they launched the PolioPlus program to protect children against the disease. Rotary, along with groups such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various governments throughout the world, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Grants Pass Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of "Service Before Self."

THE ATROCITIES IN DARFUR

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the heinous acts in Darfur. To date, almost two and a half million people in Darfur and Chad have been affected by the atrocities and as many as 300,000 individuals have been killed.

I commend the efforts already made to assist the people of Darfur. Millions in aid have been donated worldwide, including \$550 million from the United States. Peacekeeping efforts are underway from the African Union, the United Nations, and other organizations. I applaud the Sudanese for their commendable efforts to end the violence by signing the Peace Agreement in January. Unfortunately it is not enough.

Although the humanitarian aid and the peace agreement are steps in the right direction, it has not prevented people from being killed, raped, torn from their homes and left to starve. People are already fighting over water due to drought and a food shortage is imminent.

The international community must take stronger action. I call upon the United Nations Security Council to pass a meaningful resolution in the coming weeks, a resolution that will be consequential in the lives of the people of Darfur. The UN has already described the situation in Darfur as "the worst humanitarian and human rights situation in the world." It is time they treat the situation as such.