

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESIDENT
DENNIS CANTU

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Laredo Independent School Board President Dennis Cantu.

Dr. Cantu grew up in Texas, graduating from J. W. Nixon High School. He majored in Biology at Baylor University in Waco, and received his Doctorate in Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston at the age of 23. He specialized in internal medicine, and is currently a Board Certified Internist who practices at Laredo Medical Center and Doctor's Hospital.

Dr. Cantu continues to serve the community as Medical Director of the Laredo Fire Department Paramedics. He was recently honored for his enormous contribution to the health and safety of Laredo when one of the Laredo schools was renamed the Dr. Dennis D. Cantu Health Science Magnet School in his honor.

Dennis Cantu is now serving his fifth term as President of the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees. He has been a trustee for 15 years, and has previously held the posts of Secretary and Vice President. Dennis Cantu is an invaluable resource for Laredo, Texas, and a tireless advocate for the health and education of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Laredo Independence School District Board President Dennis Cantu, and to thank him for his service.

CONGRATULATING NIAGARA UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Niagara University Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2005 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament on March 7, 2005. Their win by a score of 81–59 over Rider University clinched the Purple Eagles' second NCAA Tournament berth, the first appearance since 1970.

After heartbreaking losses in the conference title game two out of the last three years, the Purple Eagles showed their perseverance to break through to the "big dance." The accomplishments of Juan Mendez, who was the MAAC player of the year and named tournament MVP, and all-tournament teammates Lorenzo Miles and David Brookshad are im-

pressive, but each member of the team needs to be congratulated for this title game win.

However, a team is only as successful as its leader, and Coach Joe Mihalich, now in his seventh season at Niagara University, exemplifies everything that is good about college athletics. He demands accountability from his players both on and off the court, and is a strong role model for the entire University community. Under Mihalich's guidance, the Purple Eagles have won three of the past seven MAAC regular-season titles, advanced to the MAAC Championship game three times, and has posted seven-straight winning seasons. Along the way, Mihalich quietly has collected the second-most wins in school history and was the first Niagara coach to reach 100 wins in just his sixth season at the helm.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot be prouder of the Niagara University's Purple Eagles, and I wish to commend University President Father Joseph Levesque, the coaching staff and players, and students at Niagara University for this championship season. I will be eagerly watching the team's first round game in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent Niagara University on the national stage.

HAITI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to open the CBC Special Order on Haiti.

Haiti should be in the hearts and minds of all who support justice, democracy, and freedom.

Until Haiti knows peace, we who are here tonight, "the conscious of the Congress" will remain duty-bound to bring our neighbors struggles to light.

This week commemorates the one-year anniversary of Haiti's 33rd coup d'etat.

As we reflect on the internationally orchestrated ousting of President Jean Bertrand, I am convinced now more than ever that President Bush undercut the potential for a diplomatic solution to last year's violent revolt and overthrow of democratically elected President, Jean Bertrand Aristide.

One year later, the result of the coup has left Haiti a breeding ground of the morally corrupt.

Drug dealers, thugs and brutal militia men who have taken the lives of hundreds of Haitians, raped and tortured women and children, and filled the coffers of the Haitian rich and elite who support and sponsor their terror now rule the country.

The interim Haitian Government has even gone so far as to reward these thugs with positions in government and label them "freedom fighters".

Today, Tom Griffin, renowned human rights activist, addressed the CBC Haiti Task Force and gave us a first-hand account of the

human rights abuse and climate of destruction in Haiti.

He showed us gruesome pictures and reviewed the abysmal human rights report from his November trip.

The pictures show the battered-bloody bodies left in the street. A morgue full of hundreds of nameless, silenced voices that died at the hands of Haitian National police.

Babies who have no chance at life—because there is no food, no clean water, and no hope for the future—were placed in cardboard boxes.

Where were the U.N. troops?

Mr. Griffin's report was based on only 10 days in Haiti show but a glimpse of what the conditions are in Haiti. What about Haitians who have had to live in this corrupt-police state since Aristide's departure?

Who will Haitians call on for safety and protection? For basic electricity, health care, food and water?

They can't call on their elected officials, because they weren't elected—they were installed.

And who is to blame for the removal of democracy and Haiti's transformation toward hopelessness?

Mr. Speaker, the current state of affairs in Haiti is the product of this Administration's doing.

By refusing to work bilaterally with the Government of Haiti and President Aristide, by embargoing aid and humanitarian assistance to the government, by funding and encouraging opposition groups, thugs, rebels and the like, not to work with Aristide toward a political settlement, and by bullying the CARICOM countries to turn a blind eye to their fellow member state; the Bush Administration contributed to the current political instability and provided the environment for a coup d'etat to occur.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the issue of Haiti is simply an issue of democracy, and the Bush Administration has been instrumental in toppling a democratically-elected government. Step by step they have worked to undermine President Aristide, for example:

1. First, the Administration propped up Haitian opposition leaders; allowing political obstructionists to refuse and reject any plan for peace and democratic elections since the passage of OAS Resolution 822, and ultimately stonewall the elections process by rejecting the Catholic Bishops Plan, the CARICOM Plan, and finally the International Peace Plan.

2. Second, the Administration funded civil society and political opposition parties with USAID funding and arming paramilitary and military factions in the Dominican Republic where Guy Phillippe and other insurgents began their recent assault on democracy.

3. Lastly, the Administration hindered the instant support of peacekeepers and bullied the international community into blocking peacekeeping support that would have secured Haiti and protected "then" President Aristide.

The Bush Administration must never again pre-empt democracy but instead allow the Haitian people, and the Caribbean community to set the course for Haiti.

● 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.

When the Administration was questioned regarding their involvement in Haiti, they justified their actions by critiquing President Aristide's effectiveness as a President.

Mr. Speaker, I myself have had many issues with the policies of President Bush. And I have always questioned the flaws of the 2000 elections that brought this Administration to office, but I refuse to believe any AMERICAN who believes in democracy would allow another country to help overthrow our government.

We do not teach people to violently overthrow our U.S. government, and we must not teach other people in the international community, particularly Haiti, to participate in activities that taint the hope for democracy by use of violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad week for Haiti, the United States, and moreover democracy.

It is our moral obligation to find out the truth about this coup d'etat and cast light on the alleged covert activities of the Bush Administration.

It is time to stop the political pillaging of the country and begin saving Haitian lives for the future stability of the country.

Members of this Congress must condemn the continued violence and murders of Haitians, and call on the Bush Administration, OAS, and the U.N. to fully support democracy, the release of political prisoners like Yvonne Neptune, and disarm the thugs and rebels who continue to stifle democracy and create an environment of fear, intimidation, and anarchy.

We must press the transitional government, the OAS and the international community to respect the regional leadership of CARICOM.

And finally, we must push the United Nations to develop a special court in Haiti to try those who are most responsible for crimes against humanity instead of rewarding them with offices in the new government.

I call on the Bush Administration to do what is right for the Haitian people. I have introduced The TRUTH Act, or H.R. 945, which would commit President Bush and his administration to tell the truth about Haiti, and the Administration's involvement in President Aristide's ousting.

It is TRUE, that the Administration has, in essence, carried out a form of 'regime change,' a different form than it took in Iraq, but still regime change, and we must bring their actions to light.

Shame on President Bush and the international community that is silent as thousands of young Haitian poor men, women and children are murdered in the streets and stripped of their chance for democracy, peace, and a basic decent life.

Mr. Speaker, Haiti boils down to democracy, fairness, and freedom, concepts that the Bush Administration must learn to respect and uphold.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER,
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the honorable

Tillie Kidd Fowler. Mrs. Fowler was a distinguished member of this House from 1993 to 2000. She was a personal friend and someone who I admired greatly.

Tillie was as good a Representative as this House has seen. She was tenacious in the defense of her constituents; principled to a point; and, willing to listen to any good argument.

Raised in an era when professional women were passed over regardless of qualifications for their male counterparts, Tillie used her sharp intellect to climb to the highest levels of government and public service; and our Nation is the better for it.

Today, as we grapple with how best to defend our Nation against the threats of the 21st Century, each of us in the public arena will have to double our efforts in order to fill the knowledge void created by Tillie's absence. We all relied on her keen insights and the significance of her efforts to rebuild our Nation's military and maintain the world's most elite armed services cannot be understated.

While I could go on and on about Tillie's policy successes as a United States Representative and later as Chairwoman of the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee, it is her work off this floor that I will miss most. When the day's work was done, Tillie had an amazing ability to cut through the clutter and remind you what matters most; to keep you focused; and, to give you a renewed sense of energy with which to tackle the issues of the day.

Just as she was in life, her memory will continue to serve as an inspiration to all of us who knew her. May God receive and keep her, and hold her family close in their days of mourning.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPER-
INTENDENT SYLVIA BRUNI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important of contributions of Laredo Independent School District Superintendent Sylvia Bruni.

Ms. Bruni graduated from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in English, Spanish, and Education. She became a high school English teacher, and taught at the United Independent School District for 17 years.

In addition to providing an education for others, Sylvia Bruni has served as an example herself of the importance of continuing education throughout life. While teaching at the United ISD, she received her Master of Science in Education from Laredo State University. She also completed programs certifying her as a professional reading specialist, professional supervisor, professional mid-management administrator, and superintendent.

Ms. Bruni has held a variety of prestigious posts in Texas education. She was principal at Salinas Elementary School, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at the United ISD, as a faculty member at Laredo Community College, and as Director for the Office of Special

Programs at Texas A&M International University. She held the post of Director of Research, Planning, and Development before being named Superintendent of the Laredo Independent School District.

These activities, along with her commitment to community volunteerism, have earned Ms. Bruni a variety of awards, including Laredo Community College Top 50 Distinguished Alumni and Laredo Morning Times "Laredoan of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to add my name to the long list of people who have congratulated Sylvia Bruni on her competent and dedicated service, and her enormous contribution to the state of education in Southwest Texas.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S CEN-
TER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
AND WASHINGTON, DC—ANNUAL
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate The Women's Center of Northern Virginia and Washington, DC on the 20th anniversary of its Annual Leadership Conference.

The Women's Center has been a resource for women in the workplace from its beginnings. The first Conference in 1985 was titled "On the Job Issues for Working Women." Held at the Vienna Community Center, the conference addressed four related areas of professional development: career strategy; development of management skills; networking and mentoring; and work relationships. It was at this event that the Center's hallmark program, The Information and Career Advisory Network (ICAN) was introduced. ICAN makes a customized network of professionals available to each of its participants. As the number of women in management positions grew, so, too, did the scope of the Annual Conference. Recent titles included "The Global Community of Women," "The Economic Equity of Women," "Caregiving in a Time of Change," and "Women Leaders, Changing the Dynamic." With this year's Conference, "Women in Leadership: Your Success Portfolio," the Women's Center continues its legacy of relevance and diversity by addressing the multiple definitions of and opportunities for leadership now available to women.

As the scope and size of the Annual Leadership Conference grew, so did the services of The Women's Center. Founded as a counseling and educational organization in 1974, the Center now offers a wide range of services and programs addressing the psychological, career, financial and legal issues of women and families. Counseling services, including group therapy and support groups, are now offered to women, couples, families and children. The Center's Information and Referral Service, which acts as a resource gateway for local human service issues, handles about 25,000 calls a year.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate The Women's Center on its comprehensive range of services and unique contribution to the

community. On the occasion of this 20th Annual Leadership Conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this outstanding and distinguished organization.

JOB TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT
OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 27) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, while I did not support the Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization bill that was passed by this body, I would like to thank Chairman BOEHNER, as well as the Republican and Democratic Committee staffs, for assisting me in adding two significant amendments to the bill.

The first of these amendments relates to domestic microcredit, and ensures that local one-stop centers may use funding to provide information about the benefits of microcredit lending, and the local institutions that provide such loans, to individuals partaking in entrepreneurial training. The second amendment creates a demonstration project which will provide funds to industry consortia for the purpose of workforce training and development. Businesses, institutions of higher education, employee representatives, and workforce development community-based organizations within an industry will be able to join together to identify and address workforce needs within their given industry. These funds can be used to advance worker skills, conduct analyses of skill deficiencies and plans to address them, and develop rigorous training and education programs related to employment in high-growth, high-wage industries. The amendment creates a "win-win" for employers and employees, as it would help employers improve their workforce, and allow employees to obtain the skills necessary to advance their careers.

Again, I feel strongly that these amendments will result in positive changes to current law, and I thank Chairman BOEHNER as well as the Republican and Democratic staffs of the Education and the Workforce Committee for their assistance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 3, 2005, I had left the chamber after the voice vote on the final passage of H.R. 841, the Continuity in Representation Act, thinking that congressional business had

ended for the day. I did not know that subsequently the vote was vacated and a rollcall vote was called. At that time I was on my way to Dulles Airport to fly back to my congressional district. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage (rollcall vote 52).

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF UNITED INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD PRESIDENT
JOHN M. BRUCE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board of Trustees President John Bruce in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

John Bruce is the President of the U.I.S.D. Board of Trustees. Bruce decided to make a run for elected office because he did not agree with some of the decisions the Board was making. Armed with that motivation, he ran for and was elected to the board in May 2002. "It's been a challenging and interesting experience," Bruce said. "I've met a lot of fine people."

John Bruce is the Director of the Laredo Job Corps, an education training facility. As Center Director of Laredo Job Corps, Bruce oversees an organization with an annual budget of \$5,500,000. Bruce is also a certified commissioned peace officer and a licensed law enforcement instructor. He is a certified k-9 trainer, a member of the Sheriff's Department SWAT team, and is a former Special Forces Operations officer in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Bruce ran on the platform of safety in our schools. He initiated the K-9 Patrol Program in UISD to help curtail drug and gang activity at district campuses. Job Corps recently donated two K-9s, which saved the district nearly \$12,000.

Bruce has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and history from Texas A & I University in Kingsville. He is also a licensed customs broker. Bruce has held numerous positions in several civic and community organizations. He was a member of the 2001 UISD Blue Ribbon Committee, he was vice president of the United High School Booster Club, and Bruce also serves as an advisor to Explorer Post 437. He is a member of the Laredo Masonic Lodge, the Laredo Shriners, and the Elks Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize United Independent School District Board President John M. Bruce.

TRIBUTE TO ELENA ANUZIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, last week, the State of Michigan and Detroit area community lost a member whose life was characterized by an altruistic commitment to her fellow human beings.

As the youngest daughter of a mill owner and a loving mother, Elena Anuzis was born in Lithuania in 1920, where she grew up in a peaceful country home with three sisters and a brother. But shortly after she married Ceslovas Anuzis, their peaceful life together was ravaged by World War II and the Soviet Union's subsequent occupation of their nation. Fearful for their lives, Elena and Ceslovas fled their country and traveled to the United States, specifically to Michigan, where they settled in Detroit and raised their four children—Ausra, Gailute, Saulius and Andrius.

Elena, along with her husband, is honored by the state of Israel as "Righteous Among the Nations," an honor bestowed to individuals who risked their lives to rescue Jews from the holocaust. Although their means were meager, they were willing to shelter Hasia Green-Gaslevitz, sent to them by a Catholic Nun from a nearby monastery. There is evidence the couple helped others. They rescued two Jewish girls from the Vilna Ghetto and found shelter for them at the home of a pharmacist in Lyda. They also provided false documentation for other Ghetto escapees.

Mr. Speaker, every day Americans live extraordinary lives, and Elena Anuzis exemplifies their quiet courage and sublime virtue. She triumphed over momentous trials and tribulations and, despite witnessing the horrors of inhumanity, she never ceased spying, eyeing and elevating the best in everyone; and, in essence and act, generously giving of her heart and soul to her fellow human beings. Let us then all pause to honor Elena; and extend our deepest condolences to her loved ones.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF LCDR ISRAEL G. "TEX" SEEGER, USNR (RET.)

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Israel G. "Tex" Seeger and to honor his great contributions to the United States. Tex turns 90 on March 21, 2005, and he will celebrate this momentous occasion on March 26, 2005 at a special dinner with family and friends.

Tex's courage and brave dedication have made our country and the great State of New York extremely proud. Tex volunteered for the United States Navy on June 30, 1941. After graduating second in a class of 500, from the U.S. Navy V-7 Midshipman Training Program, Tex was awarded an officer's sword for achieving the highest grade in engineering for deck midshipmen. Tex began his service as Deck Division Officer and Boat Group Commander aboard the USS *Edward Rutledge*, an attack transport, during the invasion of North Africa. He then went on to serve as Operations Officer aboard the USS *Harry Lee*, another attack transport, during the invasion of Sicily, Tarawa, Kwajalein, and New Guinea.

In May of 1944, Tex was one of 50 Naval Officers selected to take the Preparatory Staff Course at the Naval War College. Following his graduation, Tex served as Operations Officer and Flag Secretary on the Staff of Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger, where his duties included preparing contingency operation plans

for the Fast Battleship Striking Force, the Divisionary Bombardment on the southern coast of Okinawa prior to the invasion at Naha, and the shore bombardments carried out on the Japanese islands of Hokkaido and Honshu. Tex also established the Pacific Fleet Headquarters at the Yokosuka Naval Base Administration Building, where an impressive flag raising ceremony for Admiral Nimitz took place on August 30, 1945.

On September 30, 1945, Tex was separated from the Navy and subsequently received the citation and award of the Bronze Star Medal from Admiral Halsey. On January 1, 1949, Tex was promoted to the permanent rank of Lieutenant Commander, and he was retired in that rank in 1954.

Tex continued his commitment to service through his role as Judge Advocate and as a Director of the U.S. Navy League, New York Council. Tex currently resides in Manhasset, New York, and although he claims to be semi-retired, he is still an active member of the New York bar and is engaged in the practice of law in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Israel G. "Tex" Seeger for his years of dedicated service to this country. Tex's integrity, bravery, and stature have certainly made a significant impression on the great many lives he has touched. In recognition of this, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Israel G. "Tex" Seeger as he celebrates his 90th birthday.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER
GEORGE M. BECKELHYMER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Laredo Independent School District Board Member George M. Beckelhymer, of my Congressional District in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Beckelhymer graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, earning his bachelor's degree in radio, television, and film. After graduation he decided to venture into the business world, and he became part owner of L. Bufalo Pawn Shop.

In May 2002 he was elected to District 4 of the LISD Board of Trustees, and currently serves as Secretary of the Board. His District includes Sanchez/Ochoa Elementary, Alma Pierce Elementary, K. Tarver Elementary, and J.W. Nixon High School. Mr. Beckelhymer believes in working together with all of the appointed Trustees to create a good working environment between faculty, parents, and children.

Mr. Beckelhymer enjoys working for the community, and is an active member of the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee in the City of Laredo. Beckelhymer hopes to ensure that all students receive the best quality education to prepare them for the future, and he is proud that he is able to help the community move in a positive direction.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had the opportunity to honor Laredo Independent School District Board Member George M. Beckelhymer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday March 8, 2005, I was unable to cast my vote on H. Res. 133 and H. Res. 122. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 53, 54, and 55.

THE WALNUT CANYON STUDY ACT
OF 2005

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005.

The Walnut Canyon National Monument was originally designated by Presidential proclamation on November 30, 1915, to protect Sinaguan cliff dwellings. Since the original designation, the Walnut Canyon National Monument has been expanded to include 3,580 acres to protect additional ruins adjacent to the Monument.

In the past few years, several groups have proposed expanding the Monument with surrounding Forest Service land and designating this expanded area as a National Park. To further explore the options of the Walnut Canyon National Monument and potential inclusion of this expanded area, along with Senator MCCAIN, I have introduced the Walnut Canyon Study Act.

The Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study on the management of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff have both passed resolutions supporting further review and study of the management options for the Walnut Canyon National Monument. In both resolutions, support for maintaining certain public uses in the Monument was relayed, as well as the need for the protection of the resources in the Monument.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for public input into any recommendation that is forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. Within the study, the legislation requires the Secretaries to look at the management objectives of the Forest Service and the National Park Service, as well as the opportunities for maintaining existing public uses, such as grazing, hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing and additional forms of recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005. My intent in introducing this legislation is to help resolve the question of future management of the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

HONORING THE POLK COUNTY ENTERPRISE ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to honor and congratulate the Polk County Enterprise on their centennial anniversary, which they are celebrating throughout this year. The Polk County Enterprise has been a faithful banner of news and source of record for generations of residents in East Texas. From a humble founding by young entrepreneur Will West in the fall of 1904 the Polk County Enterprise and its parent company Polk County Publishing has grown to a circulation of over 60,000 including seven weekly and bi-weekly newspapers, three shoppers, and two job-printing operations.

Throughout its 100 year history, the paper has had only 16 publishers. Mr. Alvin Holley, the current publisher of the Polk County Enterprise has served in his post for the last thirty years—the longest of any publisher at the Enterprise. I am pleased to report he has no plans to retire anytime soon.

Mr. Holley got his start in the newspaper business as a paperboy for the Corsicana Daily Sun. The papers sold for a nickel each, Holley's profit was two cents per paper. That may not seem like much by today's standards—but back then a movie show cost only nine cents.

Mr. Holley stayed in the newspaper business—and after high school worked in the newspaper's business office and occasionally was assigned news stories. He was named the advertising manager in 1963 and served there until 1972 when he took a position with the Polk County Enterprise. Two short years later, Holley bought the Enterprise and remains its publisher to this day.

Mr. Holley credits his paper's success to the employees that keep the presses running. In a recent interview, Holley estimated that the combined years of service of current employees exceeds 430 years and that the average length of service is 14 years. That says a lot.

The men and women of the Polk County Enterprise and Polk County Publishing Company not only love what they do for a living, but also obviously love their community.

From the days of Linotype to today's high speed desk top computers, the Polk County Enterprise has covered all of the happenings in East Texas.

With a loyal staff and publisher who is just as likely to be caught working at the news desk or delivery bays as he is his private office—I am confident the Enterprise has many more exciting years in store.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's hometown community newspapers have been the trusted source of news Americans have depended on since our nation's earliest beginnings. The Polk County Enterprise has a proud legacy and it is an honor to represent the communities they serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. I urge you to join me in congratulating the Polk County Enterprise on their 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER JUAN ROBERTO RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board Member Juan Roberto Ramirez in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Juan Roberto Ramirez is the Secretary on the United I.S.D. Board of Trustees. Even though Ramirez is the District 6 representative, he says his goal is to serve the District as a whole and give the students the best education programs possible. "Let's not forget that we work united for what is best for our children," Ramirez said.

Ramirez is a retired U.S. Customs Agent. He is a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, serving his country in the U.S. Army. After graduating from high school, Ramirez attended Laredo Community College and earned a degree in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Academy. Presently, Ramirez works full-time as a Career Advisor for the Laredo Job Corps, is a self-employed businessman, and a notary public. Ramirez served as Vice-Chairman of the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors from May of 2002 to July of 2004.

Ramirez is grateful for being elected and he feels honored by the confidence the voters have in him. He promises to work hard for his constituents. "I have an open door to hear everyone's concerns," Ramirez said. "It's an extraordinary experience to be able to work for the kids in the district, to be part of a team that makes decisions for kids and staff." Ramirez says it's a thrill to be part of the Board, "it's a great honor to work for my District."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of United Independent School District Board Member Juan R. Ramirez.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY FINK AND MARCY MARXER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend two of my constituents, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer. For the second year in a row Fink and Marxer, residents of Kensington, Maryland, won a GRAMMY® for Best Musical Album for Children. Their winning album is entitled "cELLAbration: A Tribute to Ella Jenkins."

The album celebrates the music of Ella Jenkins, "The First Lady of Children's Music" and the winner of the 2004 GRAMMY® Lifetime Achievement Award. The project was a gift to Ella Jenkins in honor of her 80th birthday.

Fink and Marxer won their first GRAMMY® last year for "Bon Appetit! Musical Food Fun," and every album they have released since 1997 has been nominated for this prestigious honor.

As a Member of Congress, I have worked to address the need for broad support for music education and to assure that every child has access to the benefits of active participation in music. I believe that music education is imperative to our children's growth and well-being. During their 21-year musical career, Fink and Marxer have inspired children with their gift of music.

I applaud Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer and wish them continued success in the years ahead.

MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, I want to make everyone aware that March is National Kidney Month. A growing epidemic, diabetes has a significant impact on kidney disease. Diabetes is the single leading cause of kidney failure in the U.S. today.

Approximately 17 million people living in America, or more than 6 percent of the population, have diabetes. Because a cure for diabetic kidney disease has not yet been found, treatment involves controlling the disorder and slowing its progression to kidney failure. Recent research has shown that the presence of high blood pressure may be the most important predictor of which diabetics will develop chronic kidney disease.

Therefore, the detection and control of high blood pressure are very important in diabetic patients. March is National Kidney Month and the Kidney Caucus in partnership with the National Kidney Foundation is urging all those at risk for kidney disease, including diabetics, to get checked out by their doctor.

Treatment to prevent diabetic kidney disease should begin early, even before kidney damage develops. To accomplish this, experts must make diabetic patients aware of the severity of this disease and its symptoms, and must educate diabetics on ways to control the disease.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, Tillie Fowler, who served this House with honor and with passion for eight years.

She was not only a colleague and friend to many of us but she was an unquestioned expert on national security. Her highest priority was always taking care of our men and women who serve in uniform. She established such a strong reputation as a tireless worker for her district, our state, and our nation that she quickly rose to one of the most important leadership posts in our conference.

Even after she left this House, she continued to serve when called upon, taking on a

number of difficult assignments given to her by the President and Secretary of Defense.

As much as Tillie Fowler will be remembered for her dedication to this House, I will always remember her for the respect and compassion with which she served. At a time when we talk about civility in the House, it would do us all some good to reflect on the way in which she treated all the members and staff in this body with grace and respect.

Our prayers go out on this day to Buck, Tillie's husband of 34 years, and their two daughters Tillie and Elizabeth. The news of her sudden hospitalization and quick passing was a shock to them and all of us as well.

The family can take great solace, though, as they reflect on a woman who dedicated her life to public service and who will long be remembered not only for what she accomplished but for the way in which she set about to serve others. Today indeed is a tragic day for the people of Florida, our nation and this House. We have lost a great American, a great colleague, and a great friend.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT JORGE LUIS RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laredo Independent School District Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Jose Luis Rodriguez has always been interested in education, and has been a member of the Laredo ISD School Board since May 2000. He is the School Board Trustee for District 2 which oversees Dovalina Elementary school, Macdonell Elementary School and Daiches Elementary School.

LISD Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez is a credit and an inspiration to his community and a tremendous resource to his county. He believes in helping the children of his community strive to be the best individuals they can be, by giving them a quality education. He instills in the children the value of hard work and determination, and has been able to implicate many positive changes for students, parents, and LISD faculty.

Rodriguez is grateful for being elected and thanks his constituents by working hard and earning their confidence. He is currently employed in construction management and automotive sales.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Laredo Independent School District Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez.

INTRODUCTION OF HATE CRIMES STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues, Representatives WEINER,

CUMMINGS, BARBARA LEE, GUTIERREZ, GEORGE MILLER, WOOLSEY, LOFGREN, GONZALES, SANDERS, and LINDA SÁNCHEZ in introducing the Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act will ensure that hate crimes motivated by gender are accounted for by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their area and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated.

In states with gender-based hate crimes laws, prosecutors typically must present concrete evidence that the criminal act was committed due to gender bias. Obviously, not all crimes against women are gender-based crimes, and prosecutors should have discretion in identifying what constitutes a gender-based hate crime. The process of discussing these differences will improve the understanding of all hate crimes by law enforcement personnel and will improve reporting of these tragic crimes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that will help reduce hate crimes against women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 53, 54 and 55, question before the House on March 8, 2005 I did not cast votes due to inclement weather wherein my flight to Washington, D.C. was cancelled. My alternate transportation did not convey me here in a timely manner. Had I been present I would have vote "aye" on rollcalls 53, 54 and 55.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN FIELDS STOVALL

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of a distinguished constituent and good friend, John Fields Stovall. John has worked as General Counsel for the Kern County Water Agency in my district for more than sixteen years, earning the respect of his peers for his thoughtful, effective work on behalf of California water interests.

John has lived most of his life in Bakersfield, California, beginning at the age of ten. He graduated from Bakersfield High School and subsequently Bakersfield College, where he studied pre-pharmacy. John moved to the University of California at Los Angeles, where he graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Before beginning his career in water issues, John first worked for the Food and Drug Administration as an Investigator and received his J.D. degree, with honors, from Loyola Law School. John worked for several law firms, in-

cluding the respected Lebeau, Thelen and Lampe. While working at Lebeau, Thelen and Lampe, John met his wife, the former Jan Blocher, and began legal work on water rights issues. He took that experience with him to the Kern County Water Agency in 1989, when he joined the Agency as General Counsel.

John has successfully shepherded the Agency through many legal challenges and opportunities, including the organization of the Kern Water Bank. His work to ensure continued favorable operation of the State Water Project has helped to provide consistent water supplies for thousands of Kern County residents and farmers. It was a pleasure to work closely with John in our efforts to reauthorize the federal portion of the California Bay-Delta Program. In recent years, he studied for and successfully received his Doctorate from the highly-respected Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management at Claremont Graduate University.

In his personal life, John is active in the local community. He participates in the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce's Government Review Council and the Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club. He supports local students as a competition judge for high school mock trial competitions, and is an active member of the Kern County Republican Party.

While John's full-time career at Kern County Water Agency is coming to an end, I am sure that he and Jan will continue to be valuable and active members of our community in Bakersfield. On behalf of Kern County residents who recognize the necessity and value of reliable water supplies, I thank John for his service and wish him and Jan the best as they begin the next stage of their lives.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ROBERTO SANTOS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United Independence School District Superintendent Roberto Santos for his many contributions to education in the City of Laredo.

Roberto Santos has been a longtime advocate for education in the State of Texas. He received his BA from St. Edward's University in Austin, and completed his Masters in Education at the University of Texas—Pan American campus.

Beginning in 1966 as a teacher at Laredo Independent School District, he worked his way up through successive positions in the educational system. He worked as Director of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, and finally Superintendent of the entire United Independent School District, serving the students of Laredo.

Roberto Santos has also enriched the community through his work as a businessman. He began as an auto salesman in 1975, and has been owner or part owner of two businesses, Santos Auto Sales and Homeland Mobile Homes.

On top of all this, he has given his time and energy to a multitude of volunteer organiza-

tions. He served as President of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators and the Kiwanis Club, and served on the boards of the United Way, Laredo Community College, the Laredo South Girls Little League, and the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation. At each step, Roberto Santos has given of himself to make Laredo stronger, and to ensure a quality education for its children.

Mr. Speaker, United Independent School District Superintendent Robert J. Santos life is a model of community involvement, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly thank him.

CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM TERPELUK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brigadier General William Terpeluk who completes his term as Deputy Commander for the 77th Regional Readiness Command this month and thank him for his service to our nation. General Terpeluk served in this position from 31 March 2001–30 March 2005. He was Deputy Commander during 9–11 and through the War on Terror. He moves on in his military career later this month.

The 77th Regional Readiness Command is located in Fort Totten, New York. It is headquartered in Bayside, Queens, New York at historic Fort Totten, where the Reserve Command has been since 1968.

Brigadier General Terpeluk is an Infantry Officer who received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in 1974 from the Virginia Military Institute. After completing the Infantry Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he served on Active Duty as the Executive Officer, Company E, 3d Battalion, 3d Basic Combat Training Brigade, Fort Dix, NJ.

His next assignment was as the Assistant Brigade S-1, 3d Basic Combat Training Brigade, Fort Dix, NJ. Brigadier General Terpeluk was then assigned to Korea where he functioned as the Executive Officer, HHC, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry and Rifle Platoon Leader, Company B, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry, Camp Casey, as well as Support Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry, Camp Howze, Korea.

In October of 1978, Brigadier General Terpeluk transitioned to the United States Army Reserve as the Executive Officer, and later as the Commander, of Company B, 1st Battalion (M), 315th Infantry, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (M), Bristol, PA. Between February 1982 to May 86 he served as the Aide-de-Camp and Headquarters Commandant, Hqs, 79th United States Army Reserve Command, Willow Grove, PA. From May 86 to January 1993, Brigadier General Terpeluk served as the Executive Officer and Commander, 4074th Reception Battalion, 76th Division (Training), Willow Grove, PA. From January 1993 to July 94, he served as the Chief of Staff, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (M), Horsham, PA.

After a year on Active Duty to complete the United States Army War College, Brigadier General Terpeluk returned to the Army Reserve as the Commander of the 1079th Garrison Support Unit from 1995 to 1997. Between

1997 to 2001, he performed as the Commander, 2d Brigade, 78th Division and the Assistant Chief of Staff, G3, for the 78th Division. On March 31, 2001, Brigadier General Terpeluk was assigned as the Deputy Commander of the 77th Regional Support Command.

Brigadier General Terpeluk's military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbons.

In his civilian capacity, Brigadier General Terpeluk is a Laboratory Manager for Merck Research Laboratories.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank General Terpeluk for his dedication and service to the United States Army and this great Nation. For over thirty-years, General Terpeluk has worn the uniform and sworn to protect the United States from all threats. His service can never fully be repaid, so I offer him my thanks, and the thanks of all my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives and wish him well and Godspeed in his future.

HONORING GEORGE ASTE FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE AVIATION INDUSTRY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Aste, and to commend him for his dedication to the U.S. and international aviation industry. George Aste has been a leading figure in aviation for more than 40 years. He has held senior positions at United Airlines and Trans World Airlines, has advised American Airlines, and has participated in many U.S. international aviation matters for the last three decades.

The Air Transport Association recently acknowledged Mr. Aste for his exemplary service to the U.S. aviation industry. I would like to include ATA's resolution honoring Mr. Aste for his many years of dedication and leadership for the RECORD.

Be it hereby Resolved that the Air Transport Association Board of Directors commend George Aste for a lifetime commitment to the goals of commercial aviation both domestically and internationally.

For over forty years George Aste has been a leading figure in U.S. Aviation, holding executive positions at United Airlines and Trans World Airlines, continuing as a senior advisor to American Airlines.

He has participated in virtually all major U.S. international aviation matters for the last three decades.

Over the years, Mr. Aste has worked closely with U.S. Government agencies, as well as the U.S. Congress and State, City and local government officials throughout the country. He also dealt directly with many foreign government officials on international aviation matters.

Mr. Aste has dedicated much of his long illustrious career to the expansion and liberal-

ization of international operations for U.S. air carriers.

Throughout, Mr. Aste has earned the respect of his colleagues for his extraordinary knowledge, unwavering honesty and boundless good cheer.

Therefore, the Air Transport Association wishes to commend and congratulate George Aste for his dedication to furthering U.S. Commercial aviation.

TRIBUTE TO THE GOLD FAMILY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melinda and Merrill Gold on the birth of their twin daughters, Eliana Paige and Molly Gabrielle. Born February 12, 2005, Eliana and Molly are named in loving memory of their great grandmothers Ita Akerman and Mollie Freedman. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in wishing the Gold family great happiness and joy in the coming years.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PARLIAMENTARIAN JESUS GUERRA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laredo Independent School District Parliamentarian Jesus J. Guerra for his honorable service to his country, his state, and his home town of Laredo, Texas.

Jesus Guerra attended Laredo Junior College, Mount View College in Dallas, and the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a lifelong civil servant: he was an employee of the U.S. Postal Service, and rose to the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Postmaster for Zapata, Texas before his retirement.

He is also a military veteran; he served in the United States Air Force from 1961 through 1970, and received an honorable discharge.

Jesus Guerra has continued to enrich his community in a variety of ways: he is a member of the City of Laredo Cable commission, a softball coach, and a catechist at St. Vincent and Santo Nino churches. He received the Community Service award from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and was one of the first Hispanics to receive this high honor.

Jesus Guerra continues to reside in Laredo with his wife, Estella, with whom he has six children. He has been a member of the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees since 2001. Jesus Guerra has led a life of exemplary service as a postal worker, a soldier, a volunteer, and an education advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate him on his accomplishments, and to thank him formally for all he has done.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT THE U.S. AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AND PROVIDE JOBS FOR WISCONSIN'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will benefit the U.S. automotive industry and help provide jobs for Wisconsin's manufacturing sector. Wisconsin has seen a net loss of more than 71,000 manufacturing jobs over the last five years, which is very troubling for a state with the second highest number of manufacturing employees per capita in the nation. Although the economy has improved significantly since mid-2003, many of our lost manufacturing jobs have not been recovered. Congress must continue to work to help our manufacturers remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI), a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, employs 2,500 workers in the state and thousands more throughout the country. As the world's largest producer of automotive interiors, JCI works to develop and produce seating systems, instrument panels, door systems, overhead systems, and automotive electronics. They are a leader in the production of electronic telecommunications systems for vehicles and have developed innovative voice recognition systems that are used by the major manufacturers in the U.S. automotive industry.

The microphones covered in this legislation are a key component of JCI's electronic telecommunications systems. However, they are not produced domestically and JCI must import them subject to a 4.9 percent tariff rate. By temporarily eliminating this tariff, this bill will reduce JCI's production costs and help them remain competitive against international competition. In addition, this bill will benefit U.S. automotive manufacturers who rely on JCI for their telecommunications systems, consumers who will pay reduced prices for these products, and hard-working Americans who are employed in the manufacturing industry.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to pass this legislation and help U.S. manufacturing.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, we were all stunned by the sudden passing of our former colleague Tillie Fowler. It was a shock that someone so young, so vibrant, so engaged could be gone so quickly. Her family, especially her husband Buck and two daughters Tillie and Elizabeth, remain in our thoughts

and prayers as they deal with their tremendous loss.

As I've thought about Tillie over the past week, I remember that Tillie always seemed to know where she was going. She wasn't necessarily in a hurry, but she knew where she wanted to be, and what she needed to do. Many of my colleagues may remember the brisk pace of Tillie as she hustled between meetings and votes and other commitments. She was dainty but determined, small yet sure, focused yet always friendly.

Tillie was deeply dedicated to her work on the Armed Services Committee and to the men and women who serve our country in the military. In her mind, they deserved the best, and she was determined to see that they got it. She had the respect of members from both sides of the aisle, and especially the leadership of the military and the Pentagon for her commitment.

Today, as we find ourselves engaged in the Global War on Terror and we see all that our military has accomplished to further the cause of liberty across the Middle East, we should remember Tillie's hard work on their behalf. She deserves a tremendous amount of credit for recognizing the importance of a strong military, even in times of relative peace and prosperity. You never know when you might need it. And we need it today. Thanks to Tillie, and many other people, we have it.

Tillie Fowler will long be remembered here on Capitol Hill for her dedication, her grace, her love of this country and those who serve it. She set a shining example for all of us to follow—love your family, love your country, love your job, and know where you're going.

RECOGNIZING 225TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CON-
GREGATION IN GEORGETOWN

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown, which is celebrating 225 years of distinguished history on March 16, 2005. On the Sundays when I'm in Washington, I often attend this church and I'm always reminded of its unique heritage.

The church's history is deeply connected with the history of the Nation. It started with a small group of worshipers in 1760 who were organized into a church in 1780 under the eminent Stephen Bloomer Balch, pupil of religious leader John Witherspoon and soldier of the Revolution. It is the first Presbyterian Church in what is now modern-day Washington, DC, and remains the oldest church in the city of any denomination with an unbroken ministry. Men and women of every denomination worshiped there, including many leaders of the young republic.

The first, and for many years the only, Protestant church building in Georgetown was erected by its congregation in 1782. Additions were made in 1794 with Thomas Jefferson listed among the contributors. A rare charter, still in effect, was granted in 1806 to "the Presbyterian Congregation in George Town" by an act of Congress signed by President Jefferson. In 1810, the church's seal, with its

seven stars and Bible, was given to the church by the superintendent of the United States Mint. In 1821, President Monroe laid the cornerstone for the beautiful Bridge Street building which was moved fifty years later to its present site, with President Grant laying the cornerstone at that location. This is the same building in which the congregation now worships.

The Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown has always been a pioneer in the religious and cultural life of the community. In 1781, Dr. Balch became headmaster of the Columbian Academy to which George Washington sent his nephews and wards. Later, a school for girls was founded. The first book published in the District of Columbia was written by Dr. Balch, and he helped to found the first public library. As an outgrowth of the church's ministry, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches were established in Washington and Maryland.

The church's bell tolled all day when President Washington died. George Washington Parke Custis, the grandson of Martha Washington and father-in-law of Robert E. Lee, delivered an oration on the defeat of Napoleon from the church's pulpit. Memorial services for President William Henry Harrison were conducted there. During the Civil War, its building was used as a hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers, including casualties after the Second Battle of Manassas and the Battle of Fredericksburg. In these and many ways, the church has been identified with the history of the nation it has sought to serve.

The church's ministry remains vibrant today. The congregation is thankful for the recent arrival of its new pastor, the Reverend Doctor Richard L. Sheffield. Under his dynamic leadership and with God's grace, I'm certain that the church will continue to play an important role in the Washington community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown on its 225th anniversary. It is both an honor and a pleasure to salute such a long-standing institution that has played such an important role in the history of our Nation.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING WEEK

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our nation's great manufacturing base. My colleague Rep. GILLMOR introduced important legislation, H. Res. 16, to support National Manufacturing Week, congratulate manufacturers and their employees for their contributions growth and innovation, and recognize the challenges facing the manufacturing sector. I join him in applauding America's manufacturers.

I especially want to highlight aviation manufacturing, the manufacturing sector predominant in my district, where Wichita is known as the Air Capital of the World. Wichita is home to 4 major aircraft manufacturers, numerous suppliers and other support industries. I am very proud of all the men and women today and in years past who have brought that distinction to our great city.

According to the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, General Aviation manufacturing contributed over \$6 billion to the U.S. economy in 2004, exporting nearly \$1.5 billion. Approximately 80 percent of the world's GA aircraft is manufactured in the United States. The total U.S. aerospace manufacturing industry exports \$58.5 billion in products—the largest net export segment of all U.S. industry.

General Aviation Manufacturers directly employ nearly 169,000 workers around the country. Aircraft manufacturing workers are the highest-paid, highest-skilled workers in the manufacturing sector. They earn an average wage of \$47,700 annually—35 percent more than the U.S. average.

In addition, for every aviation manufacturing job created in the U.S., three additional jobs are created in other industries. In 2002, the last year for which we have complete numbers, the total impact of civil aviation on the U.S. economy exceeded \$900 billion and 11 million jobs. This amounts to 9 percent of the U.S. GDP. General Aviation contributes approximately \$102 billion (or 12 percent of the total civil aviation contribution) and 1.3 million jobs.

General Aviation manufacturers make aircraft for fire-fighting, law enforcement, scientific research, search and rescue, and agriculture. Currently General Aviation and aerospace employees are working on the future of flight: advances in propulsion, including quiet supersonic flight, new energy sources including hydrogen, and integrating satellite technology for navigational and safe flight purposes.

Manufacturing employees across America are building our future as I speak. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their hard work, and to commit to ensuring that our manufacturing base thrives for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER,
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague Representative Tillie Fowler.

Tillie, who was sometimes called the "Steel Magnolia," represented her district in Florida from 1992 until 2000 and was a champion for the issues important to her constituents. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, she fought to keep military bases in her congressional district. During her tenure on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, she investigated the inadequacies in the country's preparedness for a domestic terrorist attack and was able to identify many of the shortcomings that contributed to our lack of preparedness on September 11, 2001. She also served as vice chairwoman of the House Republican Conference and was the fifth-highest member of the House leadership when she left Congress.

In 1997, she served on a congressional task force created to investigate the incidences of sexual harassment and abuse in the U.S. military, an issue on which she and I worked closely together. Two years ago, she was appointed by Secretary Rumsfeld to lead a

seven-member panel created by Congress to review sexual misconduct allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The panel's findings detailed much that we already knew including a failure of leadership and command and a lack of support for the victim. I strongly believe that we owe much of the progress we are now making on this issue to the efforts made by Tillie Fowler during the past ten years.

Tillie is survived by her husband Buck and her two daughters Tillie and Elizabeth. I join with my colleagues in expressing my deepest condolences. Tillie will certainly be missed.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEM-
BER JOHN PETER MONTALVO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recog- nize Laredo Independent School District Board Member John Peter Montalvo for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Mr. Montalvo was elected to the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees in May 2000. He is a retired employee of the U.S. Postal Service and former City of Laredo council member. He has contributed much of his time and efforts toward social causes.

He has worked with numerous capital im- provement projects which included housing re- habilitation, street paving and recreational parks. He also has initiated many health-re- lated programs for low income citizens of his district.

As the school board representative for Dis- trict 3 he serves the parents and children of Bruni, Tarver, and J.C. Martin Elementary school, but believes in serving the community as a whole to give the children the best oppor- tunities possible. Montalvo is an inspiration to all in his community, through his lifetime ser- vice to education and the children of Laredo.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the dedication of La- redo Independent School District Board Mem- ber John Peter Montalvo, and I thank you for this time.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION
OF A YEAR OF LANGUAGES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a supporter of H. Res. 122, a bill brought before the House of Rep- resentatives by my colleague Rush Holt. 2005 is The Year of Languages, which is a nation- wide initiative to raise the American public's awareness regarding the importance of learn- ing languages.

The goals of the Year of Languages initia- tive are simple. We want to expand the public's understanding of the role played by languages in all aspects of people's lives, in society and in the future of human and inter-

national relations. This is also an opportunity to promote the importance of language learn- ing and language proficiency, urging every American to commit to learning other lan- guages.

By focusing on such goals, we will build awareness of the diversity of languages that now play an integral part of everyday life in our country. Ultimately, this can promote the formation of a national task force to study and strengthen national policy on language learn- ing and teaching and to make recommenda- tions to strengthen U.S. policy.

The Year of Languages is being marked by events at the national, regional and local lev- els. American Council on the Teaching of For- eign Languages (ACTFL) has organized a na- tional media campaign and educational and promotional materials designed to boost inter- est among learners of all ages, including pub- lic service announcements for television, radio, and print media.

Thank you, Merci, Gracias, Danka and Todah.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE WOODBURY
CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th year of existence of the Woodbury Church of Christ. The Middle Ten- nessee congregation will celebrate the church's 175th anniversary during festivities slated for March 13-16.

The Woodbury Church of Christ began in 1830 when Tolbert Fanning baptized Elizabeth Gowan, wife of Dr. W.D. Gowan, in the Stones River. In 1836, William West donated the property upon which the first church was erected in 1842. A new building was built on the same site in 1889. It still stands today.

In 1868, the Woodbury Church of Christ re- ported 100 members. Today, the Church has 850 members. Minister Herb Alsup has served the Church for more than 27 years. He is helped by Junior Associate Minister Al Bugg Jr.; Missions Outreach Minister Howard Swann; Youth Minister Tim Knox; elders Lannie Burger, Clayton Glenn and Ray LeFevers; and deacons Mark Bailey, Mike Bai- ley, Dale Bush, Mike Corley, Mark Elkins, Bob Fuller, Jimmy Merryman, Boyd Pitts, Jeff Reed and Greg Rogers.

The Woodbury Church of Christ helps the community's needy through its outreach cen- ter, which provides clothing and food, and other benevolent work. The congregation's mission program is very active, having started three churches in the past five years. The new churches are Bright Angel Church of Christ in Las Vegas, Nevada; Emerald Beach Church of Christ in Panama City Beach, Florida; and Cleveland Church of Christ in Cleveland, Georgia. The Woodbury Church of Christ also supports churches and ministers in 10 foreign countries and nine other cities in the United States.

Woodbury is a better place because of the work of the Woodbury Church of Christ and its congregation. I am sure the church will con- tinue to make a positive difference in the com-

munity for the next 175 years, and I congratu- late the congregation and Minister Herb Alsup for all the good work they have done.

COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD
PROTECTION ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, while we prepare to debate in the next few weeks a bill that will make it more difficult for personal bankruptcy filers to escape their debts, I rise today to speak about young people in this re- gard. We have seen a 50 percent rise in bank- ruptcy filings in the past 10 years among young people.

I am reintroducing legislation today to ad- dress the growing problem of rising credit card debt among college students in the United States, a leading cause of bankruptcies filings among young people.

In 2001, Nellie Mae conducted a study that found college students, on average are grad- uating with six credit cards in their wallets. In 2001, their credit card debt average was \$2, 327, and graduating seniors had a combined college loan and credit debt of \$20,402 each.

Semester after semester, students open their mail boxes to find envelopes notifying them that they are preapproved for credit cards. When they check their e-mail, there are more credit card offers. When they answer the phone in their dorm room, there are more of- fers.

Credit card companies pay college students generously to stand outside dining halls, dorms, and academic buildings and encourage their fellow students to apply for credits cards. With each completed application, the student applicant receives free gifts, from t-shirts to in- door basketball hoops, and the credit card company receives another interest paying cus- tomer. Walk on a college campus from move- in day on, and getting inundated with credit card applications is unavoidable.

I have heard personal stories from my dis- trict about college students overwhelmed by credit card debt. One junior in college has amassed a whopping \$14,000 of credit card debt. And Victoria's Secret still gave her a credit card with a \$2500 limit.

One of my staffers was approved for a cred- it card when she was in college after mis- spelling her name on the application, giving an incorrect address, wrong phone number, and wrong social security number. Clearly, credit card companies are not paying attention to whom they are giving credit cards, much less if the applicants can afford to pay the balance. This must stop!

College graduation should be a time of ex- citement and new beginnings; a time when students can watch the skills they have learned in college manifest into successful ca- reers and happy lives.

Instead of endless possibilities, students are burdened with endless debt. Studies show that over half of college students feel burdened by debt when they graduate. According to the Federal Trade Commission, by the time col- lege students graduate, one in eight will have charged their way to more than \$7,000 of credit card debt. Studies also show that the

likelihood of homeownership decreases as student debt increases. It is heartbreaking to me that young college students could jeopardize the possibilities of their future due to easy access to lines of credit that are not based on any income or creditworthiness requirements.

Why are we making it so easy for our young people to amass such outrageous amounts of debt that can only lead to personal ruin?

That is why I, along with Representative DUNCAN, my friend from Tennessee, have re-introduced the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. The bill will take important steps toward reducing, and eliminating, credit card debts to college students by requiring credit card companies to determine whether a student applicant has the financial means to pay off a credit card balance before they are approved. It would restrict the credit limit to minimum balances if the student has no independent income, and require parental approval for credit limit increases in the event that a parent cosigns the account.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to address this critical issue facing our young people, and I urge this House to consider and pass this bill quickly.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stem this problem, because the policy implications of thousands of young people filing bankruptcy are dire.

HAITI'S HEALTH NEEDS/NEW
PARTNERSHIP FOR HAITI ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Haiti not only needs immediate democracy but it also needs an immediate health intervention.

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.

Ninety 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.

If the United States believes in helping families across the globe be healthy, happy and free—then now is the time to step up in our own backyard and support a comprehensive health approach to positively impact our neighbors in Haiti.

One way of attacking the varied diseases that leave thousands devastated in Haiti is working with a democratic Haitian government to rebuild the health infrastructure.

I recently introduced the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005, or H.R. 945 would offer a comprehensive plan for future engagement between the U.S. and Haitian Government.

This legislation partners Haitians and Americans together to produce environmentally sound strategies for 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?

Well Mr. Speaker, 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.

We will 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.

Haiti has numerous health and social issues that are difficult to approach because of the undemocratically, installed Interim Government of Haiti; however, we must be forward thinking and prepare for Haiti's democratic future.

Preparing now will open the doors to safe, healthy clinics, reducing child and maternal mortality, combating HIV/AIDS with drugs and comprehensive treatment and nationwide sewage, sanitation, and clean water.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ROBERT J.
CARLSON

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Most Reverend Robert J. Carl-

son on his installation as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw.

During this penitential and traditionally solemn season of Lent, this is by contrast a day of celebration and reason to give thanks for God's many blessings.

We are thankful that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, led Bishop Carlson to Saginaw, and we are grateful to Bishop Carlson for saying yes to that call.

God has chosen Bishop Carlson to come to Saginaw. By giving us a new bishop, God has revealed a powerful sign that we are not alone in this journey. As we prepare for the Easter celebration, we pray that God will act through Bishop Carlson to change our hearts and help us to be more faithful servants.

Bishop Carlson has been a strong advocate for the underserved. We are called to serve the poor and defend the weak from the strong. In that respect, I also appreciate Bishop Carlson's strong support for life, from the beginning until its natural end. We hope that Bishop Carlson's example of faith in God will inspire not just Catholics but people of all faiths and even non-religious backgrounds to seek the Truth.

As the members of the community of believers in Saginaw, we offer our prayers and congratulations to Bishop Carlson as he starts his ministry in mid-Michigan.

For the many Catholics I represent in Michigan's Fourth Congressional District, may God lead and guide you and the Saginaw Diocese to do His will.

HONORING DOCTOR DENNIS W.
ROWE FOR RECEIVING THE
BLACK ENGINEER OF THE YEAR
AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Dennis W. Rowe for receiving the Black Engineer of the Year Award for professional achievement.

Dr. Rowe has mentored many children through the Reach For Tomorrow, Inc. (RFT) program. In 2000, Dr. Rowe took initiative to establish the RFT program in Prince William County, Virginia. Since the program's inception, he has worked diligently with county officials in order to obtain necessary funding for their efforts.

Through the RFT program, Dr. Rowe enables students to realize the practical applications of the subjects they are learning as well as the impact of scholastic achievement. Students spend a week in the summer focusing on career exploration, which includes time at college campuses where students are given "hands on" experiences in the areas of science and engineering.

Dr. Rowe encourages students to improve in three specific areas: attitude, achievement and attendance. As a result of their RFT experience, most students show a significant shift in their attitudes toward education. Dr. Rowe also encourages students to develop a resume during their high school years which highlights their participation in extracurricular activities. In addition, he encourages students to give back to their surrounding community.

Dr. Rowe has touched the lives of numerous students and educators. He should be honored and commended for his dedication to the RFT program and the surrounding community. Through his instruction and guidance, Dr. Rowe has enabled students to realize their potential and become successful adults.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Rowe for his years of service and dedication to the Northern Virginia community. His contributions and efforts are noted and greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER JUAN A. MOLINA, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board Member Juan A. Molina, Jr. in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Juan A. Molina, Jr. is the newest member to join the United ISD Board of Trustees. Molina was elected to the district four seat on May 15, 2004. Molina will serve parents and students attending L.B. Johnson H.S., United South H.S., Los Obispos M.S., United South M.S., the new Centeno Elementary, Perez Elementary, Prada Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Ruiz Elementary, and Salinas Elementary.

Molina serves on the school district's Student Expulsion Appeals Committee. UISD also has two board members who represent the district's property value interests on the Webb County Appraisal District's (five-member Board of Directors), Juan A. Molina, Jr. is one of two UISD representatives.

Molina was born, raised, and educated in Laredo. He spent his after school hours working part-time in his family's business. He is a 1988 graduate of Nixon High School. After obtaining a computer programming and business management degree from Computer Business Management Systems, Molina went to work with his father for six years. He eventually purchased the business from his father in 1994. Under his leadership, the business has prospered and has expanded into new fields. Molina is the owner of South Texas Neon Signs.

Molina is married and has three children who attend UISD schools. "I am involved in my children's education through participation in the school PTC's and as a Site Based Decision Making Committee member of two schools. I am also a Cub Scout Master because I believe in our kids and want to see a better future for them." Molina has gone through special training sessions to provide Laredo Boy Scouts with more camping and outdoor learning opportunities. His new training has allowed him to direct an adventure weekend and assist in another. He helped organize and direct a scout show and "Spookery" at Camp Huisache. Molina plays an active role in the Perez Elementary Boy Scout Color Guard. In addition, he was also a little league assistant coach for two years. He is involved with his church as a choir

member, and as an active participant in the annual fund-raising Jamaica.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of United Independent School District Juan A. Molina, Jr.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for more than 10 years, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has helped protect women in this country from violence, abuse, sexual assault, and sexual predators. This landmark piece of legislation was achieved in part by the bipartisan efforts of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, of which I am proud to be a member.

VAWA has provided improved access to services and resources for victims of violence and their families. It has made a real difference in the lives of women and children, who no longer suffer in silence.

Community programs funded through VAWA aid law enforcement officers and prosecutors, encourage arrest policies, stem domestic violence and child abuse, establish and operate training programs for victim advocates and counselors, and train probation and parole officers who work with released sex offenders. VAWA has also led to the creation of battered women's shelters, rape prevention and education programs, the reduction of sexual abuse of runaway and homeless street youth, and community programs on domestic violence.

Despite the success of this legislation, we still have much work to do.

One out of every four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Equally alarming is that women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate partner violence.

VAWA is up for reauthorization in this Congress. We must come together to put forward a bill that strengthens and improves our efforts to combat violence against women, including doing more for violence prevention. An essential component of prevention must be to increase outreach to young people.

We must also encourage adequate funding of VAWA initiatives. Unfortunately, each year we fall further behind in fulfilling the promises made in the authorization of VAWA. This year alone the Bush budget is more than \$163 million short of the goal.

As we recognize the vital role of the Violence Against Women Act, I urge my colleagues to reauthorize VAWA in a bipartisan way and to dedicate the necessary resources to fulfill its mission.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: ACHIEVING ZERO TOLERANCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak regarding U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking.

The U.S. Government now estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men are bought and sold across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation, and potentially millions more are trafficked internally within the borders of countries. Eighty percent of the victims are women and girls. An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign citizens are trafficked into the United States each year.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights in the late 1990s, I led an effort to end the scourge of trafficking by sponsoring the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), P.L. 106-386, which was signed into law in December 2000. In 2003, I sponsored a reauthorization of that Act which also became law.

These two pieces of legislation created a comprehensive framework for combating trafficking in persons abroad, as well as the trafficking of foreign nationals into the United States. As a result, our government has been a leader in addressing this human rights violation and encouraging other governments to do the same. When I held the first hearing on trafficking, back in 1999, only a handful of countries had laws explicitly prohibiting the practice of human trafficking. Individuals who engaged in this exploitation did so without fear of legal repercussions. Victims of trafficking were treated as criminals and illegal immigrants—governments did not offer them assistance to escape the slavery-like conditions in which they were trapped, and few NGOs were equipped to offer survivors of trafficking the restorative care needed to heal physically, mentally and spiritually from the trauma they experienced. Little was being done to prevent others from being exploited in the same way.

The situation today is remarkably improved. Since taking office, the Bush Administration has devoted more than \$295 million to combat trafficking in more than 120 countries. Across the globe, governments are taking action to prevent trafficking, to prosecute the exploiters, and to give hope and restoration to those victimized by trafficking. As Ambassador Miller testified to Congress last summer, between 2003 and 2004, twenty-four countries enacted new laws to combat trafficking. Dozens more were in the process of drafting or passing such laws. Moreover, nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide and 2,800 were convicted. Shelters have been set up for victims. NGOs and faith communities have reached out to help heal survivors of trafficking.

In order to support the ongoing efforts that have made these gains possible, on February 17, I introduced, along with this Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Rep. DONALD PAYNE, and eight other original co-sponsors, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, H.R. 972. This bill would reauthorize appropriations for anti-trafficking programs here and abroad. The bill also offers solutions

to a number of specific scenarios in which trafficking is a problem, but which our experience has shown could benefit from additional initiatives. Our witnesses at today's hearing will focus on some of these issues and I will mention just a few here.

For example, drawing lessons from the aftermath of war in the Balkans a decade ago, and the devastating tsunami in South Asia a mere few months ago, foreign policy and humanitarian aid professionals increasingly recognize the heightened vulnerability of indigenous populations in crisis situations to many forms of violence, including trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation. Traffickers also recognize this vulnerability. This bill would focus governmental efforts, particularly by the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Department of Defense, to develop trafficking prevention strategies for post-conflict and humanitarian emergency situations—strategies which do not currently exist in sufficient form.

The bill would also take further steps to ensure that U.S. Government personnel and contractors are held accountable for involvement with acts of trafficking in persons while abroad on behalf of the U.S. Government. Although few would dispute that the involvement of U.S. personnel, including members of the U.S. Armed Forces, with trafficking in persons in any form is inconsistent with U.S. laws and policies and undermines the credibility and mission of U.S. Government programs in foreign countries, there remain loopholes in U.S. laws which allow such acts to go unpunished. This bill closes those loopholes by expanding U.S. criminal jurisdiction for serious offenses to all U.S. Government contractors abroad—jurisdiction which already exists with respect to contractors supporting Department of Defense missions abroad—and by making federal criminal laws against sex and labor trafficking applicable to members of the Armed Forces. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Defense to designate a director of anti-trafficking policies to guide DOD's efforts to faithfully implement policies against trafficking.

The bill would take on the outrageous situation of peacekeepers, humanitarian aid workers, and international organizations' personnel, being complicit in trafficking and sexual exploitation. On March 2nd, I chaired a hearing in this Subcommittee that examined the evidence of gross sexual misconduct and exploitation of refugees and vulnerable people by U.N. peacekeepers and civilian personnel assigned to the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Human rights groups and the U.N.'s own internal investigations have U.N. covered over 150 allegations against Mission personnel involving sexual contact with Congolese women and girls, usually in exchange for food or small sums of money, as well as allegations of rape, forced prostitution, and demands of sex for jobs. However, to date, there has not been one successful prosecution of U.N. civilian or military personnel, either in the Congo or elsewhere.

The scandal with the U.N. Mission in the Congo is but the latest in a long list of allegations against international peacekeeping personnel involving sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation that extends back at least a decade. The involvement of peacekeepers in trafficking or sexual exploitation is not just a private matter involving only personal moral choices. Hundreds of vulnerable

women and children are being re-victimized; the reputation of the United Nations is being badly damaged; and lack of internal discipline is compromising security and effectiveness of the peacekeeping operations.

To his credit, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has promulgated a "zero tolerance" policy on sexual exploitation by peacekeepers. In June 2004, NATO also adopted an anti-trafficking policy. But words alone do not protect women and children from abuse. H.R. 972 would require that the Secretary of State certify prior to endorsing an international peacekeeping mission that the international organization has taken measures to prevent and, as necessary, hold accountable peacekeepers in the mission who are involved with trafficking or sexual exploitation. The bill would also require that the annual Trafficking in Persons Report include information on steps taken by international organizations to eliminate involvement of the organizations' personnel in trafficking.

The bill also continues to improve upon the provision of assistance to foreign victims in the United States by improving trafficking victims' access to information about federally funded victim services programs and facilitating access to counsel for victims. The bill would also establish a guardian ad litem program for child trafficking victims of trafficking.

H.R. 972 also recognizes that trafficking in persons occurs within the borders of single countries, including the United States. According to the State Department, if the number of people trafficked internally within countries is added to the estimate, the total number of trafficking victims annually would be in the range of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000. Although outside the jurisdiction of this subcommittee, I would just mention that the bill addresses the trafficking of American citizens and nationals within the United States—which the bill defines as "domestic trafficking." Although there are no precise statistics on the numbers of United States citizens or nationals who have been victimized through trafficking, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have estimated that 100,000 to 300,000 children in the United States are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation, including trafficking, at any given time.

Despite the willingness of most governments today to address international trafficking, few have recognized the existence of internal trafficking within their own borders. By addressing internal trafficking in a bill that also addresses international trafficking, the United States will again lead by example in showing that internal trafficking victims must not be dismissed by the law enforcement community as prostitutes or juvenile delinquents. This bill would begin to shift the paradigm—much as we have done so successfully in the international arena—to view these exploited souls for what they really are—victims of crime and sexually exploited children.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH PALM BEACH

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the founding of

the Town of South Palm Beach, Florida. Since 1992, I have had the distinct pleasure to represent the residents of this lovely community, and would like to share with you some of the town's attributes and history.

Located in Palm Beach County, the Town of South Palm Beach is nestled in one of Florida's many barrier islands. Rich in natural beauty, South Palm Beach shares its eastern border with the Atlantic Ocean, and its western border with the Florida Intracoastal Waterway.

The town's colorful history dates back to 1948, when two Finnish brothers from New York, Amos and Anton Askila, settled in the area. Enamored with South Florida's beauty, the Askila brothers set out for Tallahassee in 1955 to obtain a charter for the town. At the time, there were only 6 full time residents, including the Askila brothers, Robert Coletti, James Sloan and Mr. and Mrs. George Woods. The Askila brothers successfully incorporated the town during their 1955 trip to Tallahassee and, that same year, Mr. George Woods was elected as South Palm Beach's first mayor.

Today, reflecting on 50 years of history since the town's incorporation, it is clear that future generations of South Floridians have much for which to be thankful. Over the years, South Palm Beach's residents have worked diligently to preserve its residential character, friendly atmosphere and overall high quality of life. I also know that South Palm Beach's nearly 3,000 residents are working hard every day to carry on this tradition, ensuring that South Palm Beach continues to serve as a model community for other towns throughout Florida.

On behalf of Florida's 22nd Congressional District, in honor of the town's 50th anniversary celebration, I wish to recognize and commend the Town of South Palm Beach for its longstanding commitment to excellence in South Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION ON JUÁREZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this bipartisan resolution with my colleagues Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REYES, and Mr. LANTOS.

Since 1993, over 400 mutilated bodies have been found in the desert of Ciudad Juárez and the city of Chihuahua. We are deeply concerned about the murders and violence against women that have occurred and condemn these horrific acts of violence.

This Resolution expresses our deepest sympathy to the families of the women killed in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico; requests that the Mexican government's investigative and preventative efforts be incorporated into the bilateral agenda between Mexico and the United States; urges the President and Secretary of State to express concern for the harassment of the families and support for the victims' families as they seek justice; and condemns the use of torture as a means of investigation into these crimes. It also urges the State of

Chihuahua to ensure fair and proper judicial proceedings for the individuals accused of these murders, which is critical in eradicating these injustices. The resolution also expresses the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Mexico in the face of these tragic and senseless acts.

THE WALNUT CANYON STUDY ACT
OF 2005

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005.

The Walnut Canyon National Monument was originally designated by Presidential proclamation on November 30, 1915, to protect

Sinaguan cliff dwellings. Since the original designation, the Walnut Canyon National Monument has been expanded to include 3,580 acres to protect additional ruins adjacent to the Monument.

In the past few years, several groups have proposed expanding the Monument with surrounding Forest Service land and designating this expanded area as a National Park. To further explore the options of the Walnut Canyon National Monument and potential inclusion of this expanded area, along with Senator MCCAIN, I have introduced the Walnut Canyon Study Act.

The Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study on the management of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff have both passed resolutions supporting further review and study of the management op-

tions for the Walnut Canyon National Monument. In both resolutions, support for maintaining certain public uses in the Monument was relayed, as well as the need for the protection of the resources in the Monument.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for public input into any recommendation that is forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. Within the study, the legislation requires the Secretaries to look at the management objectives of the Forest Service and the National Park Service, as well as the opportunities for maintaining existing public uses, such as grazing, hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing and additional forms of recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005. My intent in introducing this legislation is to help resolve the question of future management of the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 11

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State, C. David Welch, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State, and John B. Bellinger, of Virginia, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

SD-419

MARCH 14

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine strengthening enforcement and border security, focusing on the 9/11 Commission staff report on terrorist travel.

SD-226

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SD-106

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Thomas Schieffer, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Japan, Joseph R. DeTrani, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks, and Howard J. Krongard, of New Jersey, to be Inspector General, Department of State.

SD-419

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Labor.

SD-124

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine school nutrition programs.

SH-216

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine ensuring the success of the National Security Personnel System, focusing on the proposed regulations jointly published by the Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management for the National Security Personnel System.

SD-342

Judiciary

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the OPEN Government Act of 2005 relating to openness in government and freedom of information.

SD-226

Aging

To hold hearings to examine exploring the economics of retirement.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the SBC/ATT and Verizon/MCI mergers relating to remaking the telecommunications industry.

SD-226

Appropriations

Military Construction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Department of Veterans Affairs budget overview.

SD-138

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 175, to establish the Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom National Heritage Area, S. 322, to establish the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership in the States of Vermont and New York, S. 323, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and S. 429, to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SD-366

MARCH 16

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-138

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Military Construction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Army and Air Force.

SD-138

3 p.m.

Judiciary

Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine obscenity prosecution and the constitution.

SD-226

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed hearing in SH-219.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Coast Guard Operational Readiness/Mission Balance.

SR-253

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the report entitled, "Back from the Battlefield: Are we providing the proper care for America's Wounded Warriors?"

SR-418

APRIL 14

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

345 CHOB

APRIL 21

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America.

345 CHOB

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB

CANCELLATIONS

MARCH 16

3:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Howard J. Krongard, of New Jersey, to be Inspector General, Department of State.

SD-419